SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 41:

Certain Death

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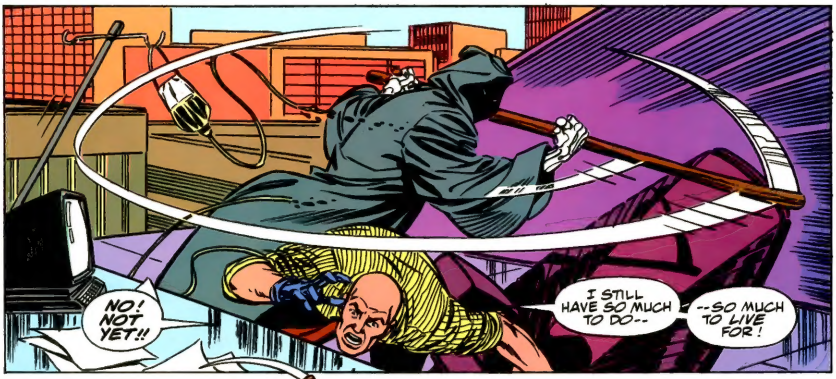

NO! NOT YET!!
I STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO DO--
--SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR!

YOU HAVE NO SAY IN THE MATTER!

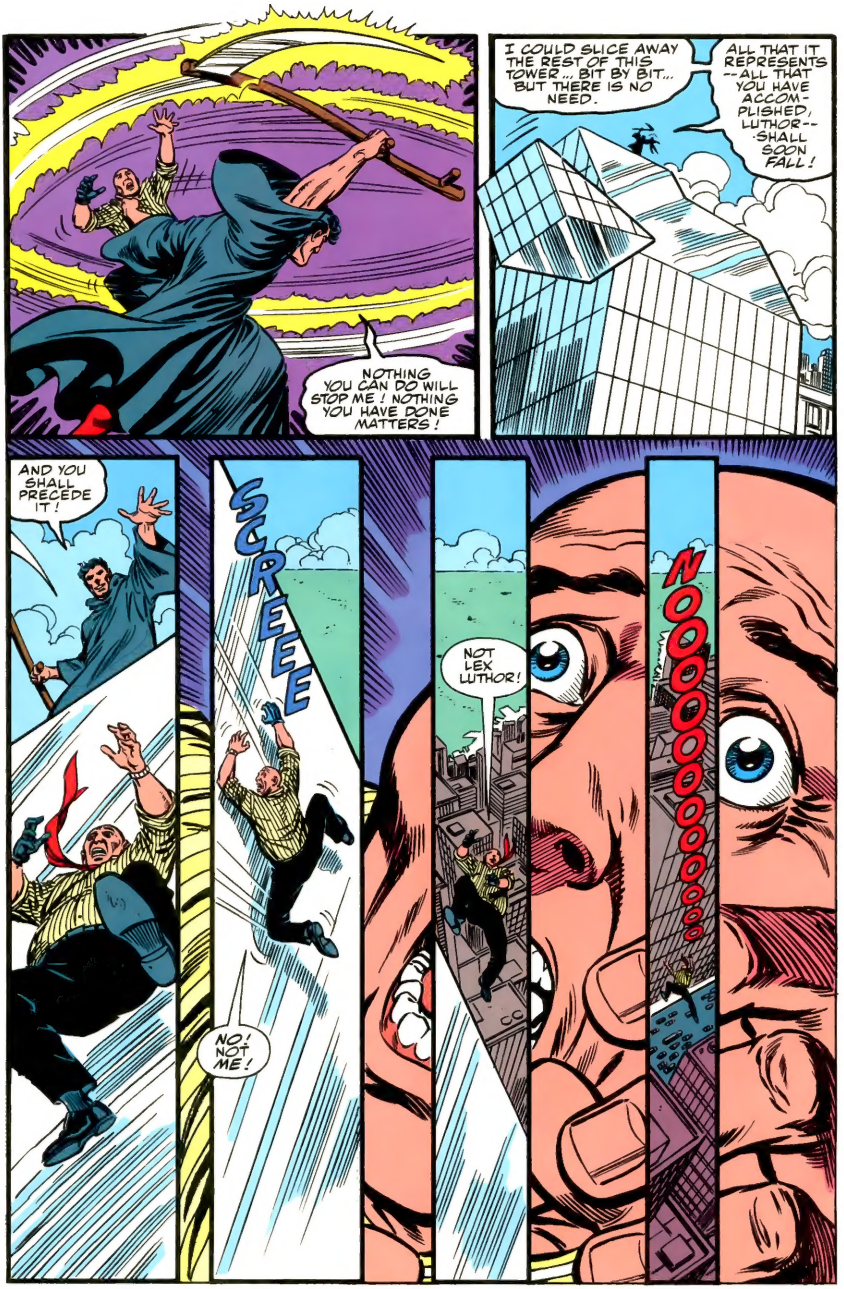
YOUR LIFE HAS REACHED ITS END...
...AND I MUST REAP YOUR SOUL!

NO, DON'T--!

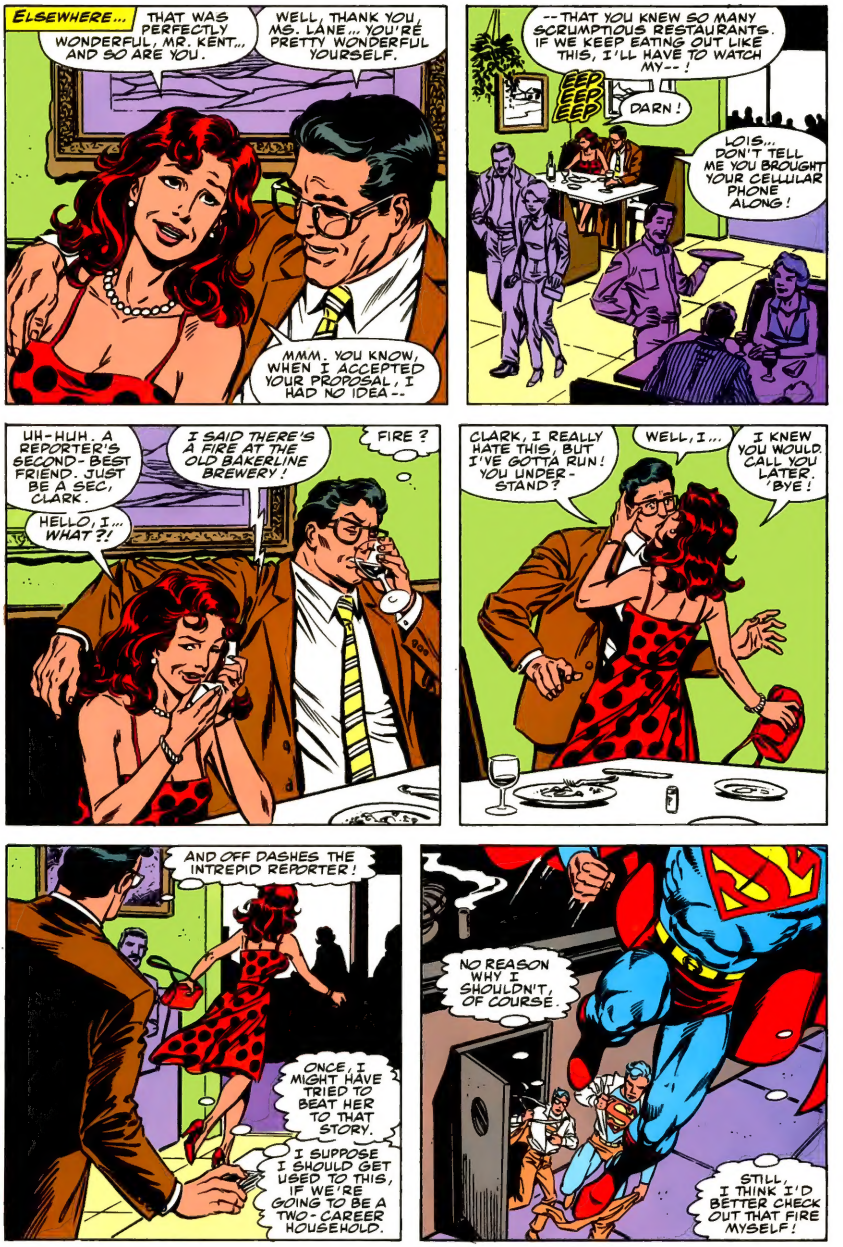
MR. LUTHOR? WE HAD A THREE O'CLOCK MEETING...
HAPPERSEN.

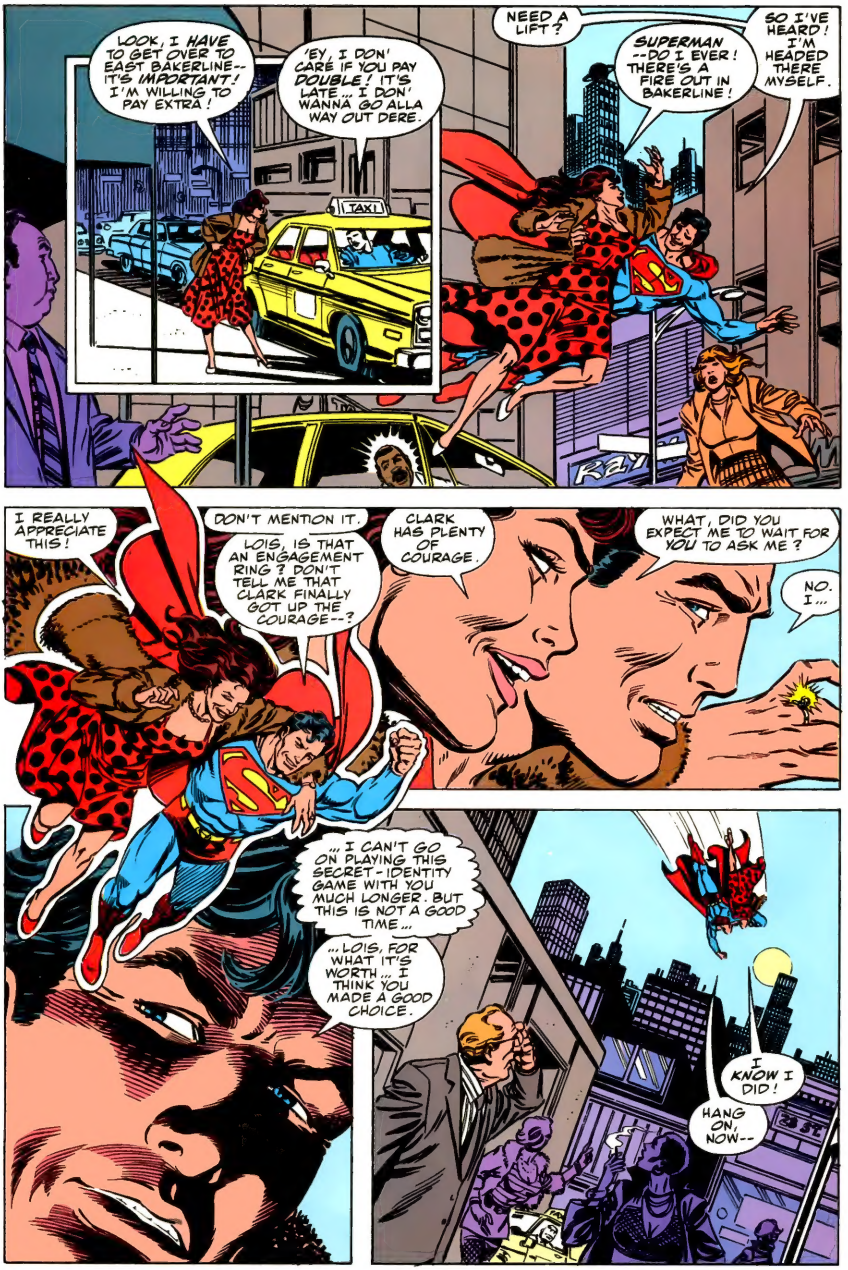
TAKE HAPPERSEN INSTEAD! HIS LIFE'S NEVER AMOUNTED TO MUCH!
SIR? I-I DON'T-- OMIGOD.

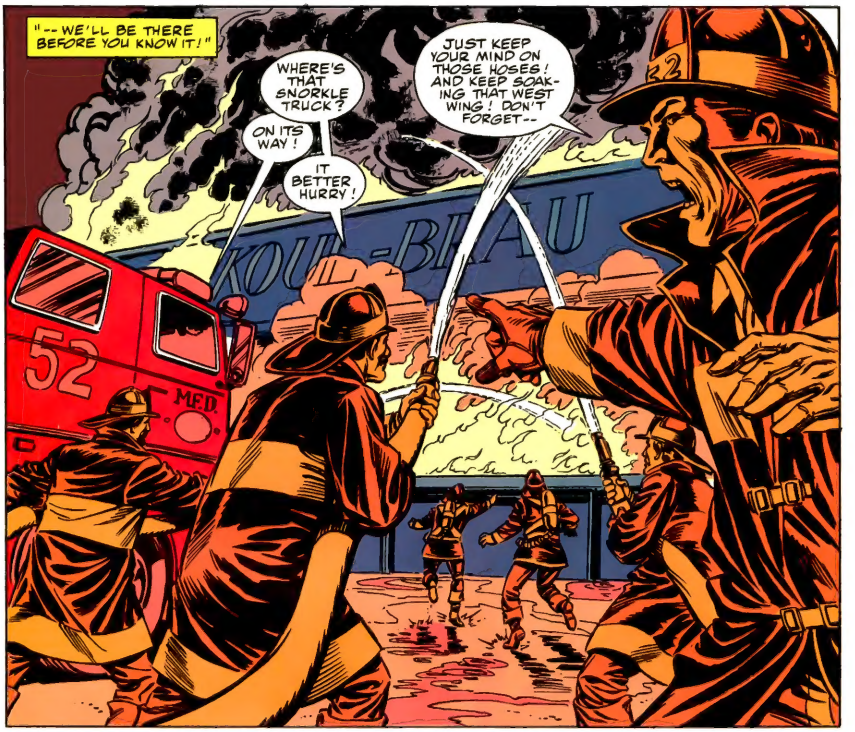
SORRY, SYDNEY, BUT BETTER YOU THAN ME!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL SEE THAT YOUR FAMILY IS WELL PROVIDED FOR!
AAIIEEEEEEEE
YOU'VE WASTED THIS MAN'S LIFE, LUTHOR.
I MUST STILL CLAIM YOURS!
IF YOU THINK THAT I'LL GO WITHOUT A FIGHT, YOU'RE...
...YOU'RE--!
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU'RE SURPRISED, LEX.
HASN'T SUPERMAN ALWAYS BEEN YOUR GREATEST FOE?
NO... NO!
STRUGGLE IS USELESS, LUTHOR. MY POWERS ARE BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN!


NOTHING YOU CAN DO WILL STOP ME ! NOTHING YOU HAVE DONE MATTERS !
I COULD SLICE AWAY THE REST OF THIS TOWER... BIT BY BIT... BUT THERE IS NO NEED.
ALL THAT IT REPRESENTS --ALL THAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED, LUTHOR-- SHALL SOON FALL !
AND YOU SHALL PRECEDE IT !
SCREEE
NO- NOT ME !
NOT LEX LUTHOR!
NOOOOOOOOOO

NOOO!
LEX, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
DEATH... I HAVE SEEN DEATH.
E-A-S-Y... IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M RIGHT HERE. YOU DOZED OFF DURING YOUR CHEMOTHERAPY. IT WAS ONLY A DREAM.
NO, KELLEY... IT'S SUPERMAN.
I WAS THE POWER IN METROPOLIS; THE ONLY POWER -- THEN HE SHOWED UP! THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE TRUE POWER IN THIS CITY. THAT WAS WHY I HAD TO DESTROY HIM!
I SHOULD HAVE USED THE KRYPTONITE IN MY POSSESSION TO KILL HIM WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE. BUT, NO, I HAD TO TOY WITH HIM! I WAS SO BLASTED CLEVER --
--I HUNG ONTO A PIECE OF THAT GLOWING ROCK FOR SO LONG THAT ITS RADIATION CLAIMED MY HAND...
... JUST AS IT'S CLAIMING MY LIFE.
SUPERMAN HAS HAUNTED ME FOR THE BETTER PART OF A DECADE, KELLEY. AND NOW...
... HE IS GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF ME.


ELSEWHERE...
THAT WAS PERFECTLY WONDERFUL, MR. KENT... AND SO ARE YOU.
WELL, THANK YOU, MS. LANE... YOU'RE PRETTY WONDERFUL YOURSELF.
MMM. YOU KNOW, WHEN I ACCEPTED YOUR PROPOSAL, I HAD NO IDEA--
--THAT YOU KNEW SO MANY SCRUMPTIOUS RESTAURANTS. IF WE KEEP EATING OUT LIKE THIS, I'LL HAVE TO WATCH MY--!
EEP EEP EEP
DARN!
LOIS... DON'T TELL ME YOU BROUGHT YOUR CELLULAR PHONE ALONG!
UH-HUH. A REPORTER'S SECOND-BEST FRIEND. JUST BE A SEC, CLARK.
I SAID THERE'S A FIRE AT THE OLD BAKERLINE BREWERY!
FIRE?
HELLO, I... WHAT?!
CLARK, I REALLY HATE THIS, BUT I'VE GOTTA RUN! YOU UNDER-STAND?
WELL, I...
I KNEW YOU WOULD. CALL YOU LATER. 'BYE!
AND OFF DASHES THE INTREPID REPORTER!
ONCE, I MIGHT HAVE TRIED TO BEAT HER TO THAT STORY.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD GET USED TO THIS, IF WE'RE GOING TO BE A TWO-CAREER HOUSEHOLD.
NO REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T, OF COURSE.
STILL, I THINK I'D BETTER CHECK OUT THAT FIRE MYSELF!

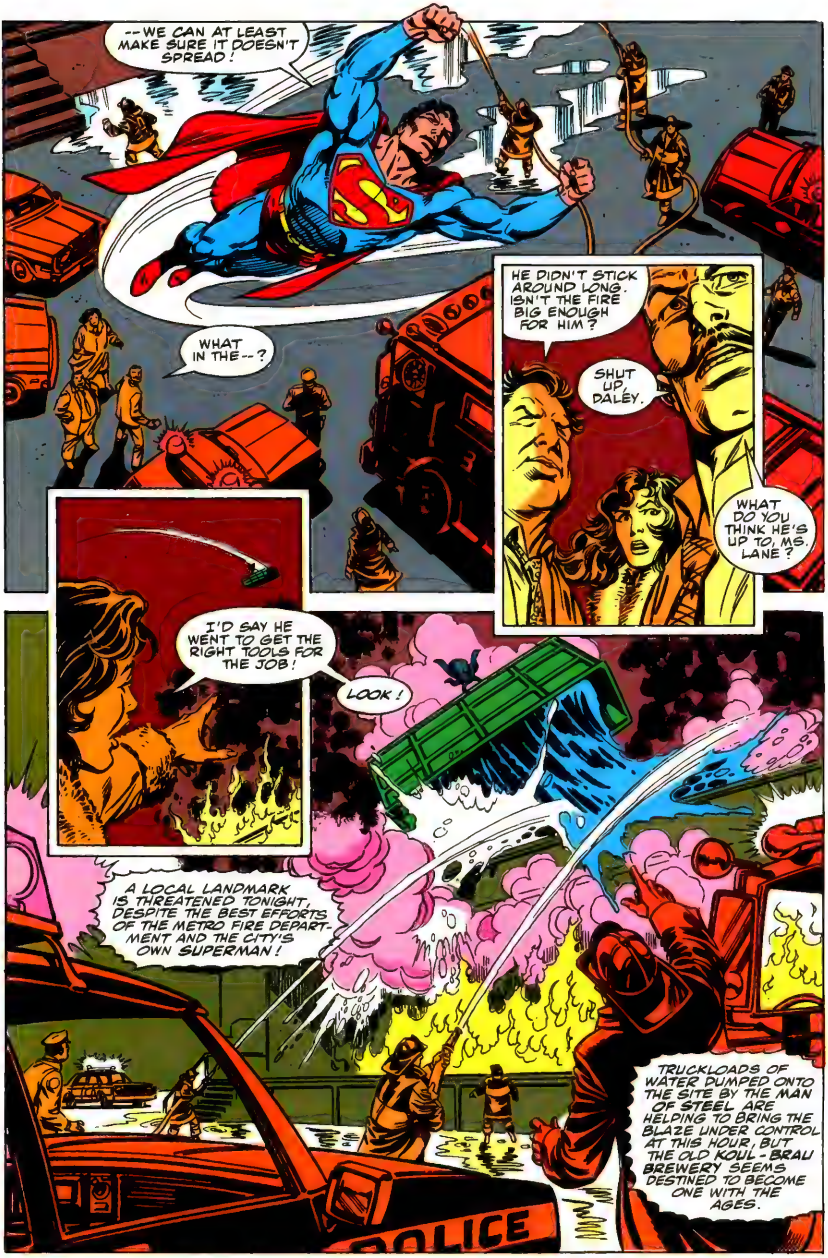

LOOK, I HAVE TO GET OVER TO EAST BAKERLINE-- IT'S IMPORTANT! I'M WILLING TO PAY EXTRA!
'EY, I DON' CARE IF YOU PAY DOUBLE! IT'S LATE... I DON' WANNA GO ALLA WAY OUT DERE.
TAXI
NEED A LIFT?
SUPERMAN --DO I EVER! THERE'S A FIRE OUT IN BAKERLINE!
SO I'VE HEARD! I'M HEADED THERE MYSELF.
I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS!
DON'T MENTION IT.
LOIS, IS THAT AN ENGAGEMENT RING? DON'T TELL ME THAT CLARK FINALLY GOT UP THE COURAGE--?
CLARK HAS PLENTY OF COURAGE.
WHAT, DID YOU EXPECT ME TO WAIT FOR YOU TO ASK ME?
NO. I...
...I CAN'T GO ON PLAYING THIS SECRET-IDENTITY GAME WITH YOU MUCH LONGER. BUT THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME...
...LOIS, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH... I THINK YOU MADE A GOOD CHOICE.
I KNOW I DID!
HANG ON, NOW--

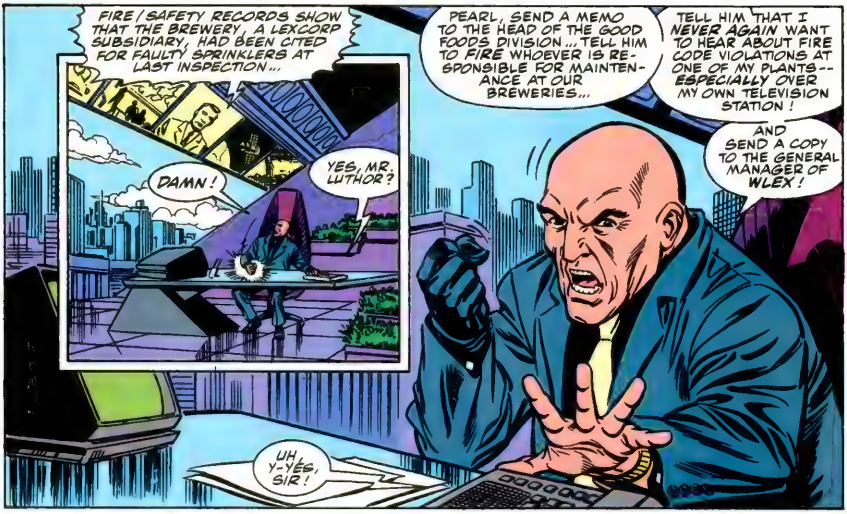

"-- WE'LL BE THERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!"
WHERE'S THAT SNORKLE TRUCK?
ON ITS WAY!
IT BETTER HURRY!
JUST KEEP YOUR MIND ON THOSE HOSES! AND KEEP SOAKING THAT WEST WING! DON'T FORGET--
52
MFD

"-- WE'VE GOT MEN INSIDE THERE!"
FRANKIE! LOOK OUT!!
KER-R-RAK!

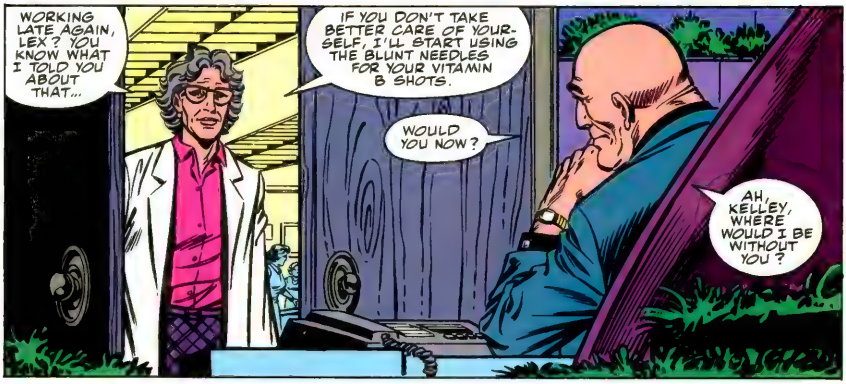
UUNGH! FLOOR WAS... WEAKER'N WE THOUGHT. I'VE FALLEN THROUGH TO THE FIRE BELOW. NO WAY I'M GETTIN' OUTTA THIS ONE.
DON'T WORRY... FRANKIE, IS IT?
HUH?

DON'T MOVE. I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THERE IN A SECOND.
BUHROOM!
HOLEE--!
THERE, WHERE THE WALL'S BEIN'... KICKED OUT! POUR IT ON THERE!
WE GOT TWO MEN COMIN' OUT! SOAK 'EM DOWN GOOD!
SUPERMAN--!
CAPTAIN... YOUR MAN SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT. HE INHALED A LITTLE SMOKE WHEN HIS MASK CRACKED, BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY BROKEN BONES.
WHAT'S THE STATE OF THINGS HERE?
MFD
EMERGENCY
BAD AND GETTING WORSE. LOTS OF OLD TIMBERS IN THAT BREWERY, AND NONE OF THE SPRINKLERS WERE WORKING. AT LEAST NO ONE'S TRAPPED INSIDE -- THANKS TO YOU!
BUT WE'LL NEVER SAVE IT NOW. IT'S TOO FAR GONE!
I SEE. WELL, THEN--


--WE CAN AT LEAST MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T SPREAD!
WHAT IN THE--?
HE DIDN'T STICK AROUND LONG. ISN'T THE FIRE BIG ENOUGH FOR HIM?
SHUT UP, DALEY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO, MS. LANE?
I'D SAY HE WENT TO GET THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB!
LOOK!
A LOCAL LANDMARK IS THREATENED TONIGHT, DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF THE METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY'S OWN SUPERMAN!
TRUCKLOADS OF WATER DUMPED ONTO THE SITE BY THE MAN OF STEEL ARE HELPING TO BRING THE BLAZE UNDER CONTROL AT THIS HOUR, BUT THE OLD KOUL-BRAU BREWERY SEEMS DESTINED TO BECOME ONE WITH THE AGES.
POLICE

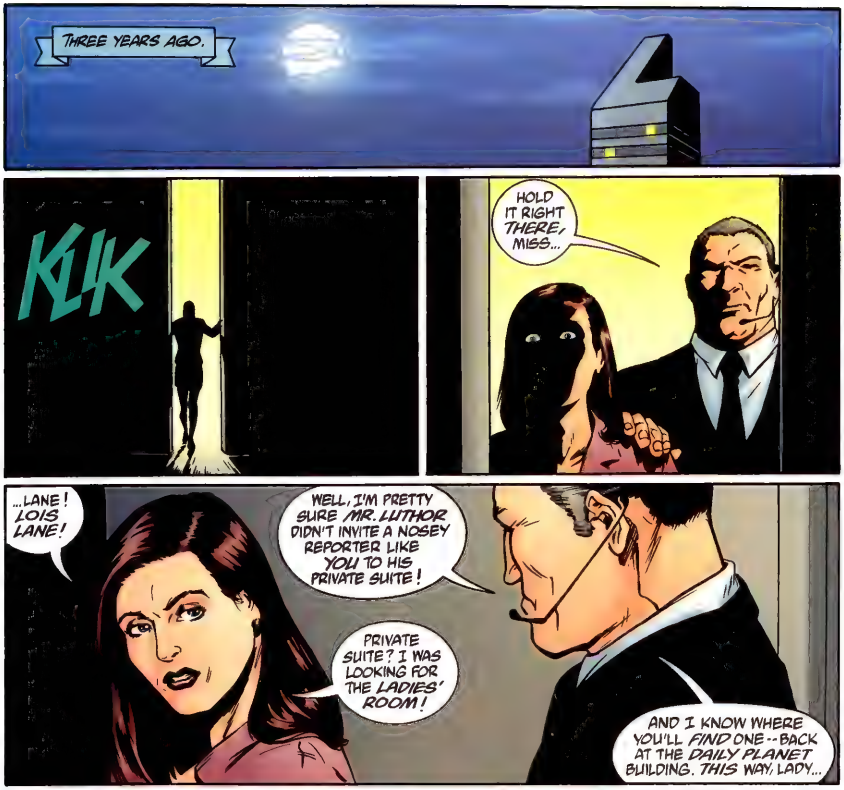

FIRE/SAFETY RECORDS SHOW THAT THE BREWERY, A LEXCORP SUBSIDIARY, HAD BEEN CITED FOR FAULTY SPRINKLERS AT LAST INSPECTION...
DAMN!
YES, MR. LUTHOR?
PEARL, SEND A MEMO TO THE HEAD OF THE GOOD FOODS DIVISION... TELL HIM TO FIRE WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE AT OUR BREWERIES...
TELL HIM THAT I NEVER AGAIN WANT TO HEAR ABOUT FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS AT ONE OF MY PLANTS--ESPECIALLY OVER MY OWN TELEVISION STATION!
AND SEND A COPY TO THE GENERAL MANAGER OF WLEX!
UH, Y-YES, SIR!

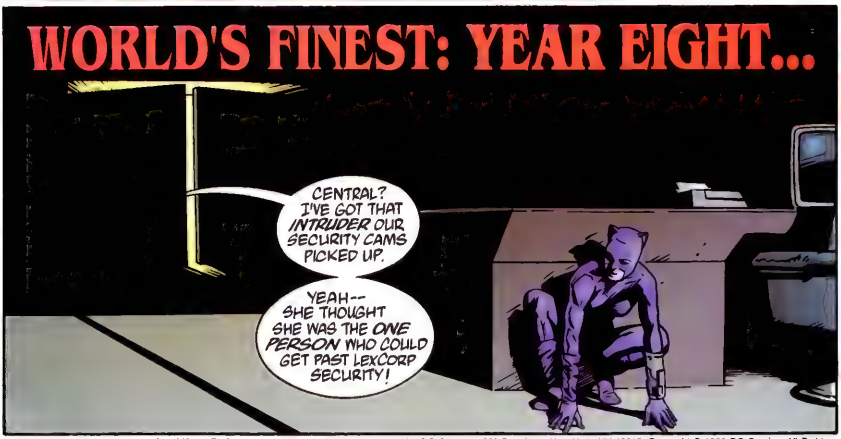
THE DREAM WAS RIGHT. ONCE I'M GONE, LEXCORP WILL CRUMBLE... I CAN SEE IT HAPPENING ALREADY!
IF ONLY I HAD A SUCCESSOR TO WHOM I COULD TURN OVER CONTROL... BUT THERE'S NO ONE WITH THE ABILITY OR THE WILL. IF ONLY ONE OF MY WIVES HAD GIVEN ME A SON. A SON...
...I HAD ONE IN JERRY WHITE. PERHAPS IF I HAD RECOGNIZED HIM AS MY OWN WHEN HE WAS A BOY... NO... NO POINT IN WONDERING ABOUT THAT NOW. JERRY IS DEAD... AND I SOON WILL BE.


WORKING LATE AGAIN, LEX? YOU KNOW WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT...
IF YOU DON'T TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF, I'LL START USING THE BLUNT NEEDLES FOR YOUR VITAMIN B SHOTS.
WOULD YOU NOW?
AH, KELLEY, WHERE WOULD I BE WITHOUT YOU?

WHERE WOULD I BE, IF NOT FOR...
...YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL, MR. LUTHOR.
IF THIS CUT HAD GONE ANY DEEPER, YOU COULD HAVE DAMAGED THE TENDONS.
WELL, I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU, DOCTOR. YOU'RE A GOOD WOMAN WITH A NEEDLE...
...TOO GOOD TO WASTE YOUR TIME IN THIS COW TOWN. WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK WITH ME... TO METROPOLIS.
MR. LUTHOR, I--!
"LEX," DEAR ONE. CALL ME...
LEX, ARE YOU--? OH!!
B'CAN' B'LIEVE I FELL FOR 'IS LINE.
'ELL WIT' IT. I DON' NEED ANYBODY, 'SPECIALLY MR. LEX...
LUTHOR? W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'VE COME TO RECLAIM A LIFE.

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME NOW... AFTER ALL THESE YEARS ?
THIS IS STRICTLY BUSINESS, KELLEY. I NEED A GOOD DOCTOR WHO CAN KEEP HER MOUTH SHUT.
NO, LEX, WHAT YOU NEED IS A MIRACLE WORKER.
I BEG YOUR PARDON ?
JUST THINKING OUT LOUD.
SERIOUSLY, GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO TAKING IT EASIER. YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT, YOU KNOW... A YEAR AT THE MOST.
I KNOW, KELLEY... I KNOW.
ONCE, I WAS THE MIRACLE WORKER. CERTAINLY, THAT'S WHAT THE AEROSPACE BOYS CALLED ME WHEN I DEVELOPED THE LEX-WING. THIS WAS THE LITTLE MIRACLE THAT LAUNCHED THE LEXCORP EMPIRE...
... THAT FIRST CAPTURED THE WORLD'S IMAGINATION AND MADE ME A HOUSEHOLD WORD.
I WAS LIKE NEIL ARMSTRONG OR JOHN GLENN... OR LINDBERGH !
YES !
PEARL, GET DR. HAPPERSEN ON THE LINE... THEN ROUND UP MY LEGAL STAFF FOR A CONFERENCE CALL.
OH, I'LL ALSO WANT TO REVIEW THE LEX-AVIATION PERSONNEL FILES.
RIGHT AWAY, MR. L.
YES, IT'S TIME TO START MAKING MIRACLES AGAIN.


THREE YEARS AGO.
KLIK
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MISS...
...LANE! LOIS LANE!
WELL, I'M PRETTY SURE MR. LUTHOR DIDN'T INVITE A NOSEY REPORTER LIKE YOU TO HIS PRIVATE SUITE!
PRIVATE SUITE? I WAS LOOKING FOR THE LADIES' ROOM!
AND I KNOW WHERE YOU'LL FIND ONE -- BACK AT THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING. THIS WAY, LADY...


WORLD'S FINEST: YEAR EIGHT...
CENTRAL? I'VE GOT THAT INTRUDER OUR SECURITY CAMS PICKED UP.
YEAH-- SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS THE ONE PERSON WHO COULD GET PAST LEXCORP SECURITY!

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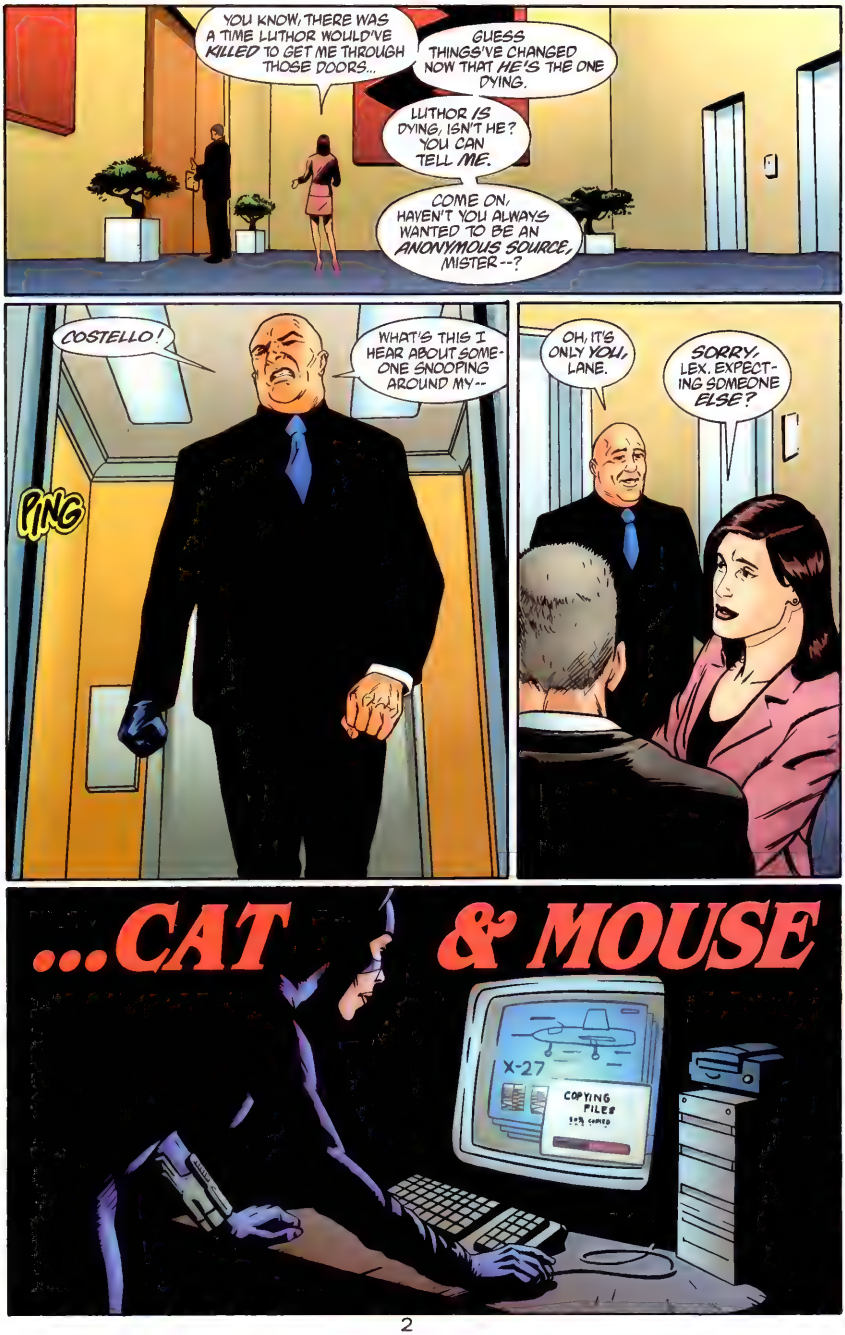
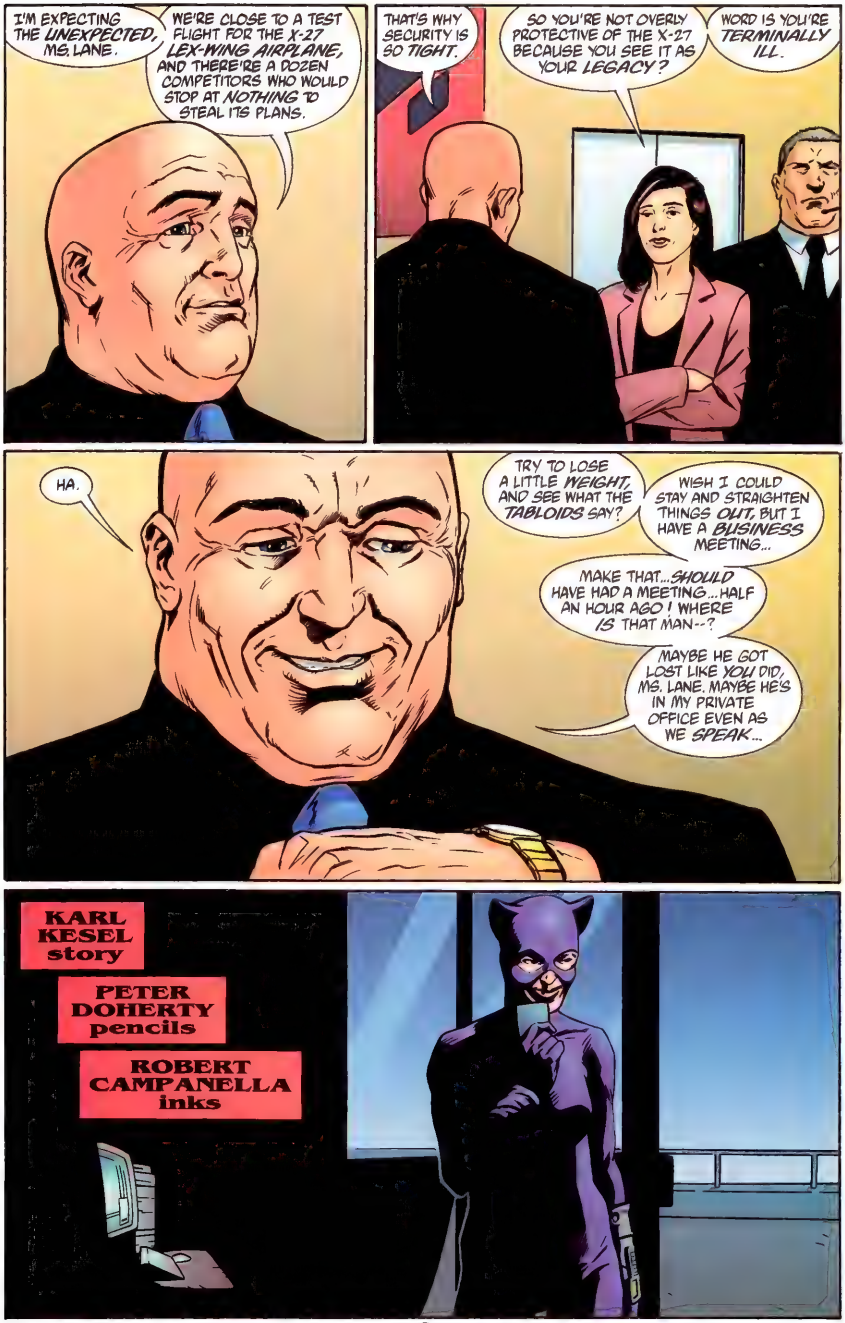
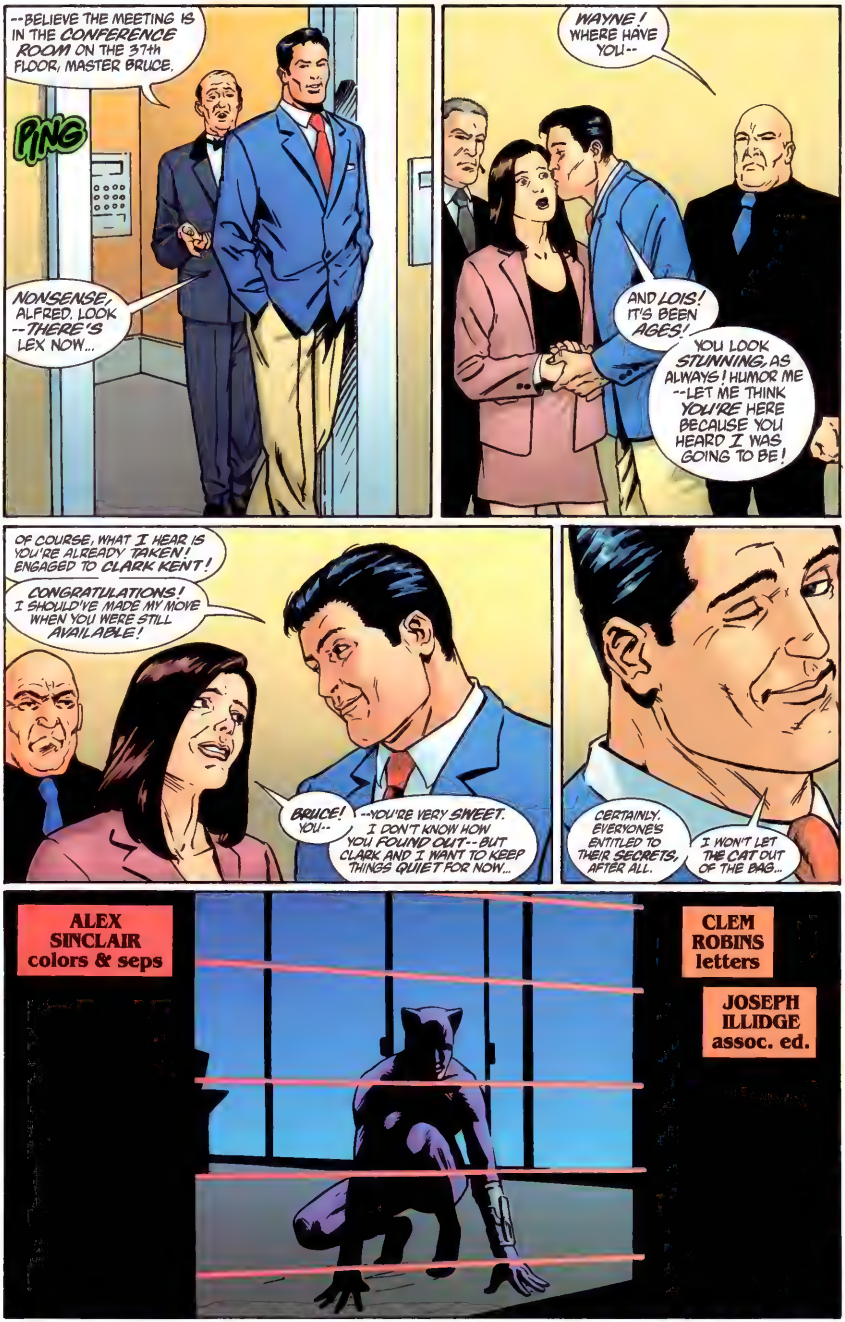
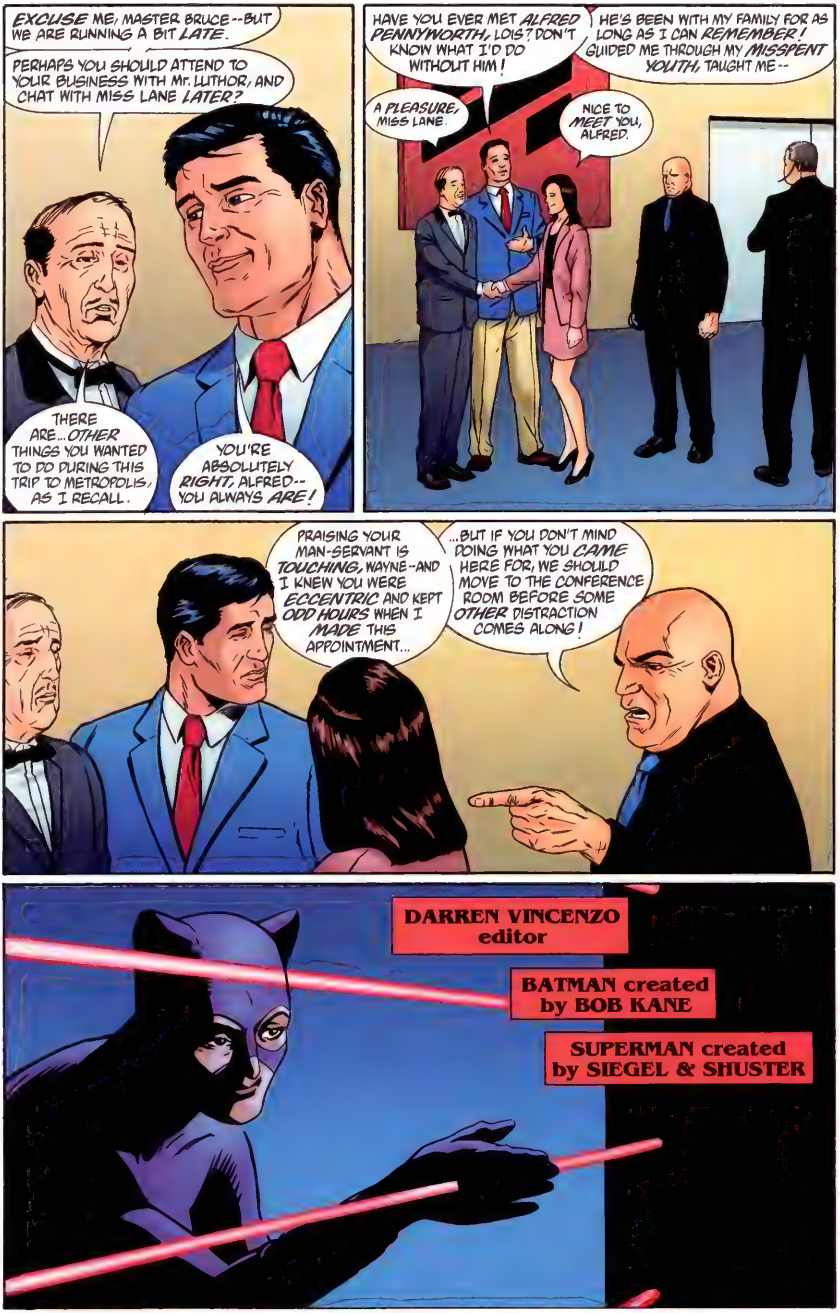

YOU KNOW, THERE WAS A TIME LUTHOR WOULD'VE KILLED TO GET ME THROUGH THOSE DOORS...
GUESS THINGS'VE CHANGED NOW THAT HE'S THE ONE DYING.
LUTHOR IS DYING, ISN'T HE? YOU CAN TELL ME.
COME ON, HAVEN'T YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE, MISTER--?
COSTELLO!
WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT SOMEONE SNOOPING AROUND MY--
PING
OH, IT'S ONLY YOU, LANE.
SORRY, LEX. EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE?
...CAT & MOUSE
X-27
COPYING FILES

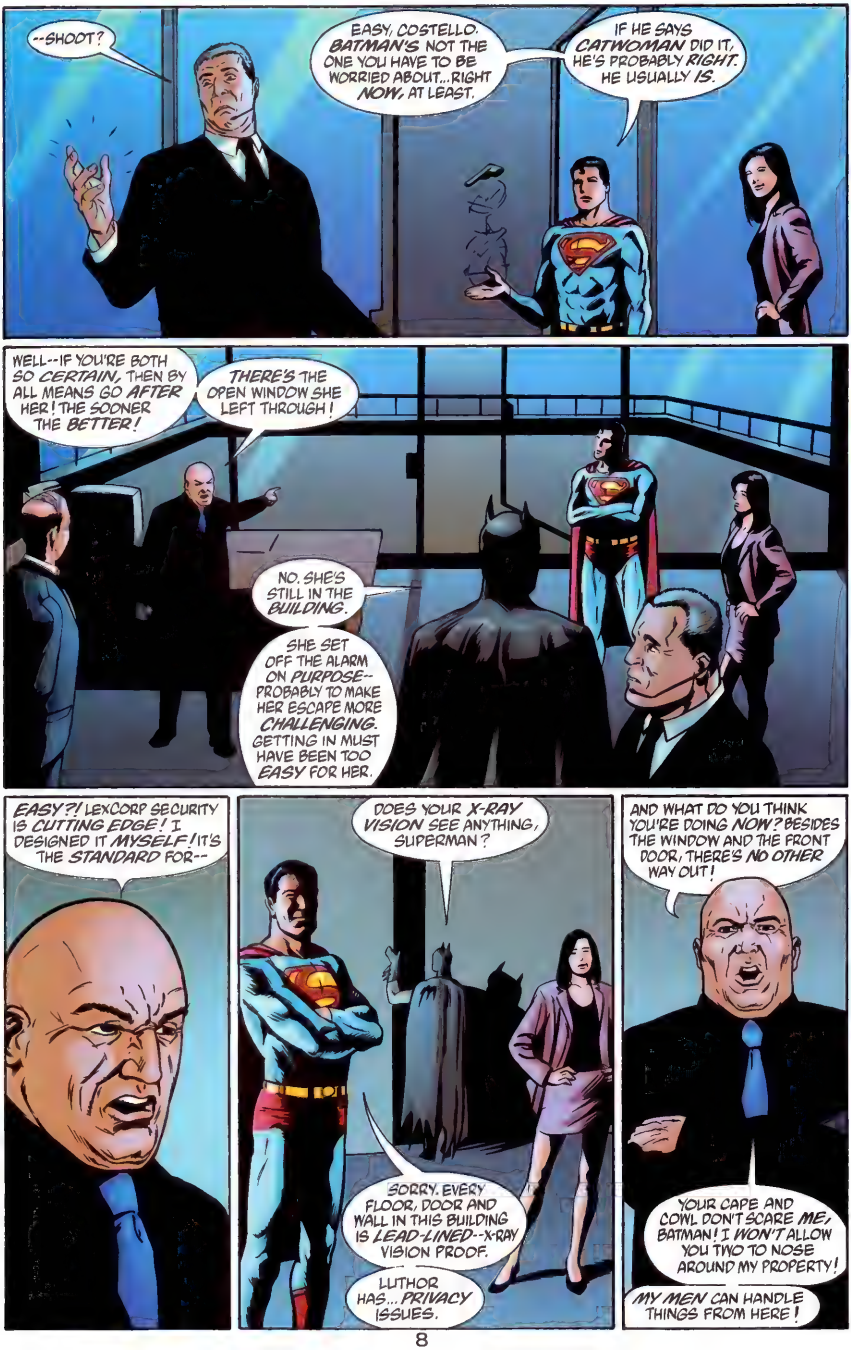

I'M EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED, MS. LANE.
WE'RE CLOSE TO A TEST FLIGHT FOR THE X-27 LEX-WING AIRPLANE, AND THERE'RE A DOZEN COMPETITORS WHO WOULD STOP AT NOTHING TO STEAL ITS PLANS.
THAT'S WHY SECURITY IS SO TIGHT.
SO YOU'RE NOT OVERLY PROTECTIVE OF THE X-27 BECAUSE YOU SEE IT AS YOUR LEGACY?
WORD IS YOU'RE TERMINALLY ILL.
HA.
TRY TO LOSE A LITTLE WEIGHT, AND SEE WHAT THE TABLOIDS SAY?
WISH I COULD STAY AND STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT, BUT I HAVE A BUSINESS MEETING...
MAKE THAT...SHOULD HAVE HAD A MEETING...HALF AN HOUR AGO! WHERE IS THAT MAN--?
MAYBE HE GOT LOST LIKE YOU DID, MS. LANE. MAYBE HE'S IN MY PRIVATE OFFICE EVEN AS WE SPEAK...
KARL KESEL story
PETER DOHERTY pencils
ROBERT CAMPANELLA inks


--BELIEVE THE MEETING IS IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 37th FLOOR, MASTER BRUCE.
PING
NONSENSE, ALFRED. LOOK --THERE'S LEX NOW...
WAYNE! WHERE HAVE YOU--
AND LOIS! IT'S BEEN AGES!
YOU LOOK STUNNING, AS ALWAYS! HUMOR ME --LET ME THINK YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU HEARD I WAS GOING TO BE!
OF COURSE, WHAT I HEAR IS YOU'RE ALREADY TAKEN! ENGAGED TO CLARK KENT!
CONGRATULATIONS! I SHOULD'VE MADE MY MOVE WHEN YOU WERE STILL AVAILABLE!
BRUCE! YOU--
--YOU'RE VERY SWEET. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND OUT-- BUT CLARK AND I WANT TO KEEP THINGS QUIET FOR NOW...
CERTAINLY. EVERYONE'S ENTITLED TO THEIR SECRETS, AFTER ALL.
I WON'T LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG...
ALEX SINCLAIR colors & seps
CLEM ROBINS letters
JOSEPH ILLIDGE assoc. ed.

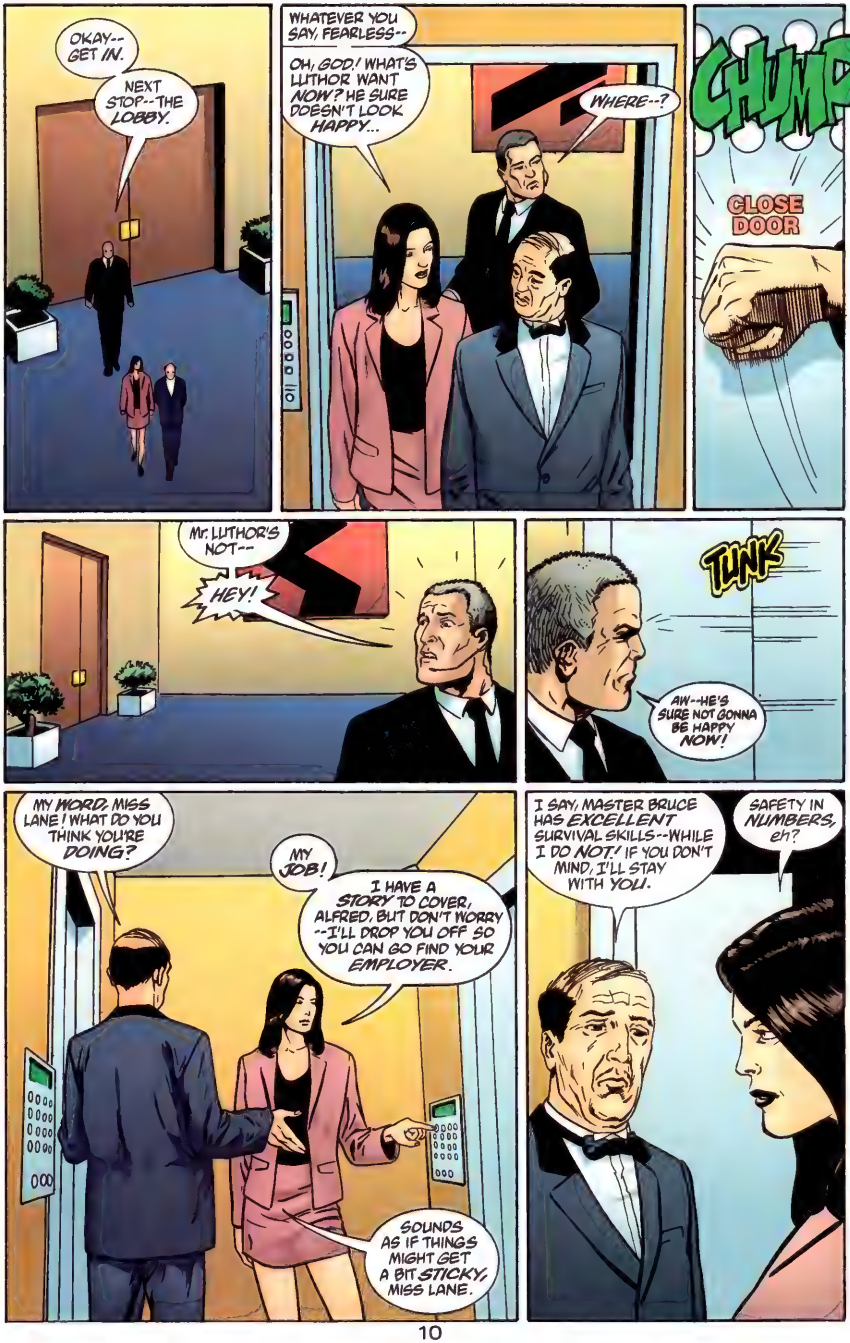

EXCUSE ME, MASTER BRUCE--BUT WE ARE RUNNING A BIT LATE.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD ATTEND TO YOUR BUSINESS WITH Mr. LUTHOR, AND CHAT WITH MISS LANE LATER?
THERE ARE...OTHER THINGS YOU WANTED TO DO DURING THIS TRIP TO METROPOLIS, AS I RECALL.
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, ALFRED--YOU ALWAYS ARE!
HAVE YOU EVER MET ALFRED PENNYWORTH, LOIS? DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT HIM!
HE'S BEEN WITH MY FAMILY FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER! GUIDED ME THROUGH MY MISSPENT YOUTH, TAUGHT ME--
A PLEASURE, MISS LANE.
NICE TO MEET YOU, ALFRED.
PRAISING YOUR MAN-SERVANT IS TOUCHING, WAYNE--AND I KNEW YOU WERE ECCENTRIC AND KEPT ODD HOURS WHEN I MADE THIS APPOINTMENT...
...BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND DOING WHAT YOU CAME HERE FOR, WE SHOULD MOVE TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM BEFORE SOME OTHER DISTRACTION COMES ALONG!
DARREN VINCENZO editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE
SUPERMAN created by SIEGEL & SHUSTER

VOOP
CENTRAL! WHAT THE HELL IS--?
WHAT?! THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
GET BACK, Mr. LUTHOR!
THEY SAY SOMEONE SET OFF THE ALARM IN YOUR PRIVATE SUITE!
ALL RIGHT--FREEZE!
SAVE IT, COSTELLO. WHOEVER WAS HERE IS GONE.
WAS THE COMPUTER ON WHEN YOU APPREHENDED LANE?
COMPUTER--?
NEVER MIND. IT'S TOO LATE.
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN--!

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
MY SUPER-HEARING HEARD THE ALARM, LUTHOR. WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING I NEED YOUR HELP WITH.
CLICK
FIVE'LL GET YOU TEN SOMEONE JUST DOWNLOADED THE FILES FOR THE X-27, SUPERMAN.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE'D BEEN WATCHING LANE FOR SOME TIME BEFORE WE STOPPED HER...
BUT THERE WASN'T ANY OTHER UNAUTHORIZED OR UNACCOUNTED-FOR PERSON IN THE BUILDING! WHO COULD'VE GOTTEN IN HERE?
CATWOMAN.
Huh--?!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, WHOEVER YOU ARE, OR I'LL--


--SHOOT?
EASY, COSTELLO. BATMAN'S NOT THE ONE YOU HAVE TO BE WORRIED ABOUT...RIGHT NOW. AT LEAST.
IF HE SAYS CATWOMAN DID IT, HE'S PROBABLY RIGHT. HE USUALLY IS.
WELL--IF YOU'RE BOTH SO CERTAIN, THEN BY ALL MEANS GO AFTER HER! THE SOONER THE BETTER!
THERE'S THE OPEN WINDOW SHE LEFT THROUGH!
NO. SHE'S STILL IN THE BUILDING.
SHE SET OFF THE ALARM ON PURPOSE--PROBABLY TO MAKE HER ESCAPE MORE CHALLENGING. GETTING IN MUST HAVE BEEN TOO EASY FOR HER.
EASY?! LEXCORP SECURITY IS CUTTING EDGE! I DESIGNED IT MYSELF! IT'S THE STANDARD FOR--
DOES YOUR X-RAY VISION SEE ANYTHING, SUPERMAN?
SORRY. EVERY FLOOR, DOOR AND WALL IN THIS BUILDING IS LEAD-LINED--X-RAY VISION PROOF.
LUTHOR HAS... PRIVACY ISSUES.
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING NOW? BESIDES THE WINDOW AND THE FRONT DOOR, THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT!
YOUR CAPE AND COWL DON'T SCARE ME, BATMAN! I WON'T ALLOW YOU TWO TO NOSE AROUND MY PROPERTY!
MY MEN CAN HANDLE THINGS FROM HERE!

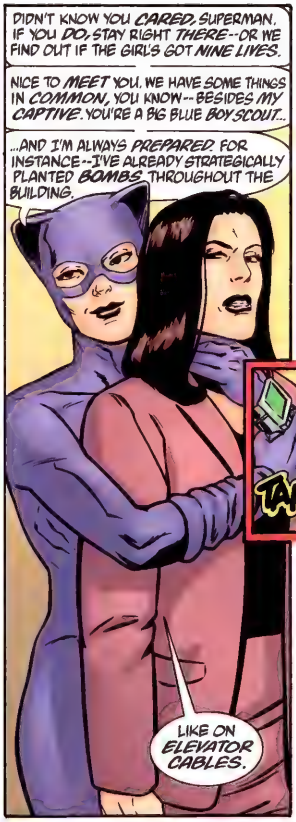
NO DISRESPECT TO LEXCORP SECURITY--BUT REFUSING THE HELP OF TWO OF THE WORLD'S FINEST HEROES?
THAT SHOULD MAKE AN INTERESTING HEADLINE IN TOMORROW'S PLANET...
TAK
HERE...
...THIS IS THE WAY CATWOMAN LEFT.
"NO OTHER WAY OUT, 'eh, LEX? OF COURSE, I GUESS YOU FORGOT ABOUT THIS SECRET ENTRANCE...
...SINCE YOU PROBABLY HAVE SO MANY OF THEM.
I THINK THE BEST THING TO DO IS CALL IN THE POLICE. THEY'LL HAVE THE RESOURCES TO COMB EVERY INCH OF THIS PLACE...
Um... Mr. LUTHOR? WE JUST LOST OPTICAL AND AUDIO ON ALL MONITOR CAMS. SECURITY'S DEAF AND BLIND IN THE WHOLE BUILDING. IT'S LIKE SOMEONE PULLED THE PLUG...
ALL RIGHT...
COSTELLO--ESCORT OUR... GUESTS OUT. I'M SORRY, MR. WAYNE, BUT WE'LL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO RESCHEDULE OUR--
?
WHERE'S WAYNE?
MASTER BRUCE LEFT THE MOMENT THE ALARM SOUNDED. HE HAS A NEAR PHOBIA ABOUT BEING NEAR CRIME SCENES. A CHILDHOOD TRAUMA, YOU UNDERSTAND.
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WAYNE...
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU TWO WAITING FOR? GET MOVING IF YOU WANT TO FIND CATWOMAN...
...BEFORE I DO!


OKAY--GET IN.
NEXT STOP--THE LOBBY.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, FEARLESS--
OH, GOD! WHAT'S LUTHOR WANT NOW? HE SURE DOESN'T LOOK HAPPY...
WHERE--?
CHUMP
CLOSE DOOR
Mr. LUTHOR'S NOT--
HEY!
TUNK
AW--HE'S SURE NOT GONNA BE HAPPY NOW!
MY WORD, MISS LANE! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
MY JOB!
I HAVE A STORY TO COVER, ALFRED, BUT DON'T WORRY--I'LL DROP YOU OFF SO YOU CAN GO FIND YOUR EMPLOYER.
SOUNDS AS IF THINGS MIGHT GET A BIT STICKY, MISS LANE.
I SAY, MASTER BRUCE HAS EXCELLENT SURVIVAL SKILLS--WHILE I DO NOT! IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL STAY WITH YOU.
SAFETY IN NUMBERS, eh?

OKAY, JUST REMEMBER--THIS ISN'T A PICNIC ON THE THAMES.
YOU KNOW, THE LAST TIME I SAW BRUCE IN METROPOLIS WAS TWO YEARS AGO ON THIS EXACT SAME DAY.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS ABOUT THE SAME TIME CLARK INVESTIGATED ARKHAM, A FEW YEARS BEFORE THAT...
IF I MAY, MISS LANE--HAS YOUR FIANCÉ EVER MENTIONED A Mr. HARRISON GREY?
SURE. HE WAS AN OLD FRIEND OF CLARK'S. FAMOUS PLASTIC SURGEON WHO GOT KIDNAPPED. SUPERMAN AND BATMAN TRIED TO SAVE HIM, BUT HE DIED...
...EIGHT YEARS AGO TODAY...
THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY, ISN'T THERE?
Mr. GRAY WAS Mr. WAYNE AND Mr. KENT'S MUTUAL FRIEND. THEY BOTH TOOK HIS DEATH RATHER PERSONALLY...
...TOO PERSONALLY, IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, BUT...
WELL, IT REALLY IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR HUSBAND-TO-BE ABOUT. I CAN'T SAY MORE WITHOUT BETRAYING CONFIDENCES.
AS A REPORTER, I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND HOW CERTAIN SOURCES MUST BE KEPT SECRET, HOW CERTAIN IDENTITIES ARE BEST LEFT UNREVEALED...
KA-KUNK
MY WORD! WHAT NOW?
ELEVATOR STOPPED...
CONFERENCE LEVEL. KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE DOOR.
37

THE QUESTION IS-- WHICH DOOR?
CATWOMAN!
CATWOMAN--?
AIE
FFWEK
NGH--!
QUIET-- OR THE CAT'LL GET YOUR TONGUE!
LOIS LANE, RIGHT? I'M DISAPPOINTED.
I'VE DONE MY HOMEWORK. NEVER THOUGHT THE REPORTER WHO MADE A LIVING COVERING SUPERMAN'S ADVENTURES WOULD SCARE SO EASILY.
WELL, IF YOU'VE DONE YOUR HOMEWORK YOU KNOW LEXCORP TOWER IS COMPLETELY LEAD-LINED...
...BUT NOT COMPLETELY SOUND-PROOFED!

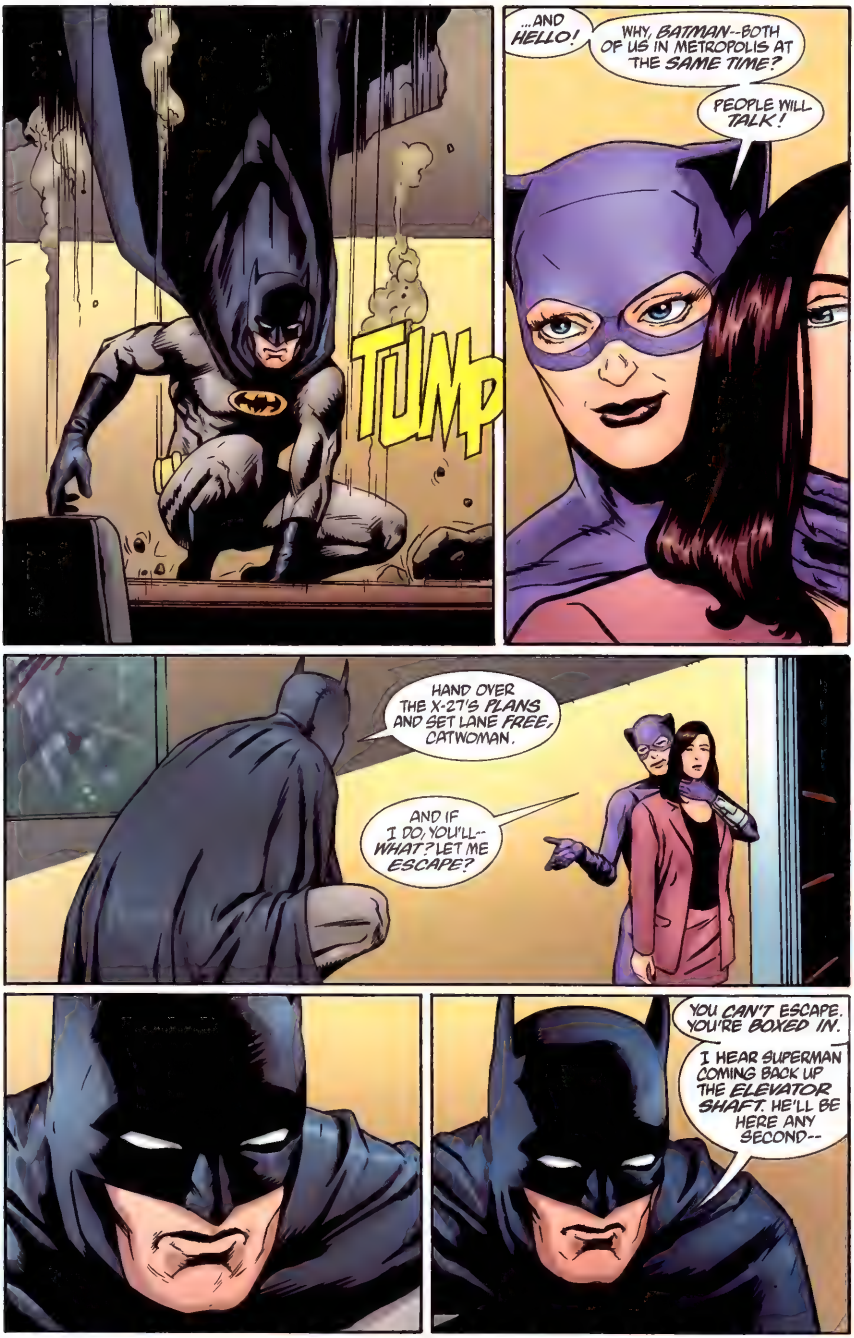
KBOOM
LOIS--!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT--?
IF YOU'VE HURT HER--!


DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED, SUPERMAN. IF YOU DO, STAY RIGHT THERE--OR WE FIND OUT IF THE GIRL'S GOT NINE LIVES.
NICE TO MEET YOU. WE HAVE SOME THINGS IN COMMON, YOU KNOW--BESIDES MY CAPTIVE. YOU'RE A BIG BLUE BOY SCOUT...
...AND I'M ALWAYS PREPARED. FOR INSTANCE--I'VE ALREADY STRATEGICALLY PLANTED BOMBS THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING.
TAK
LIKE ON ELEVATOR CABLES.

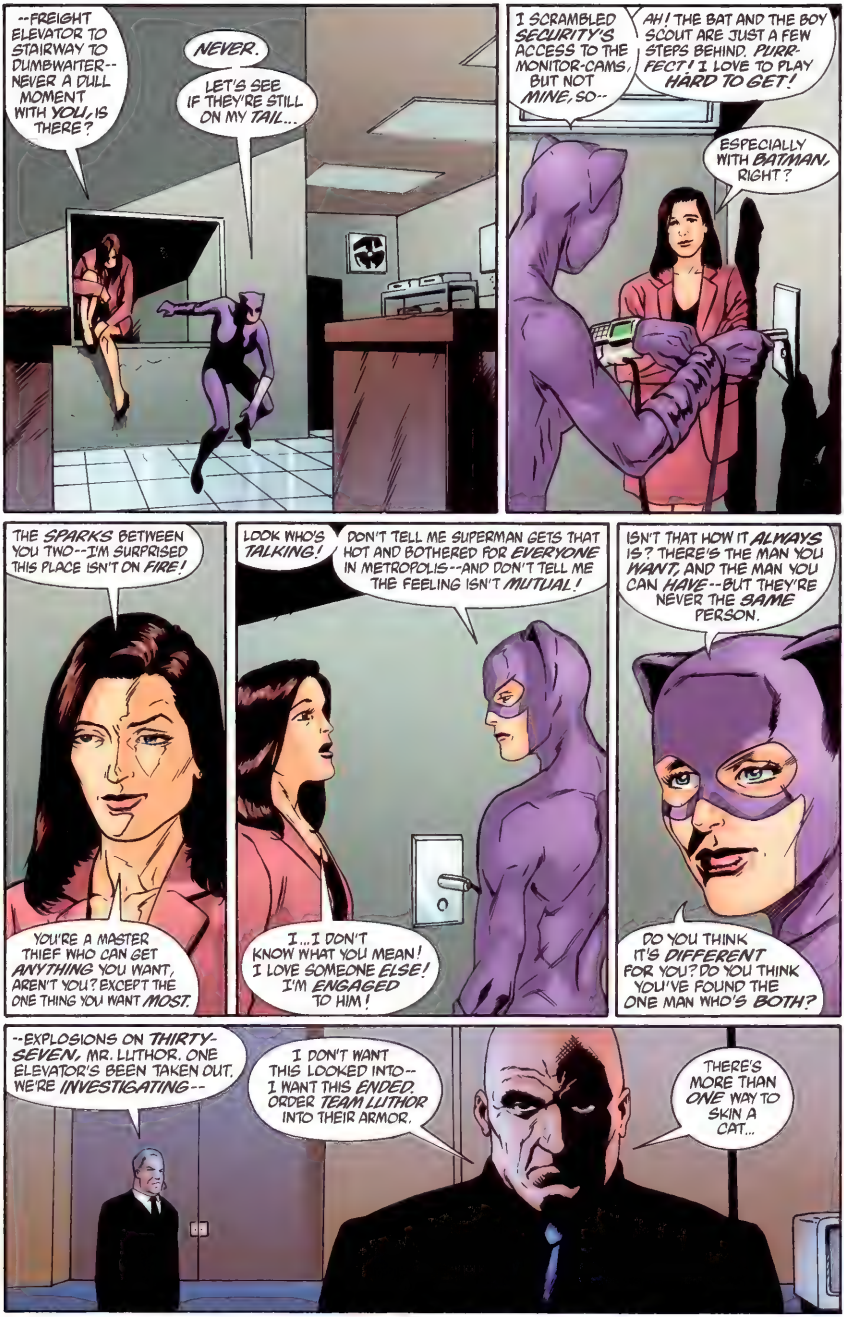
BWOOM
KTEESH
MY WORD!

KBOOM

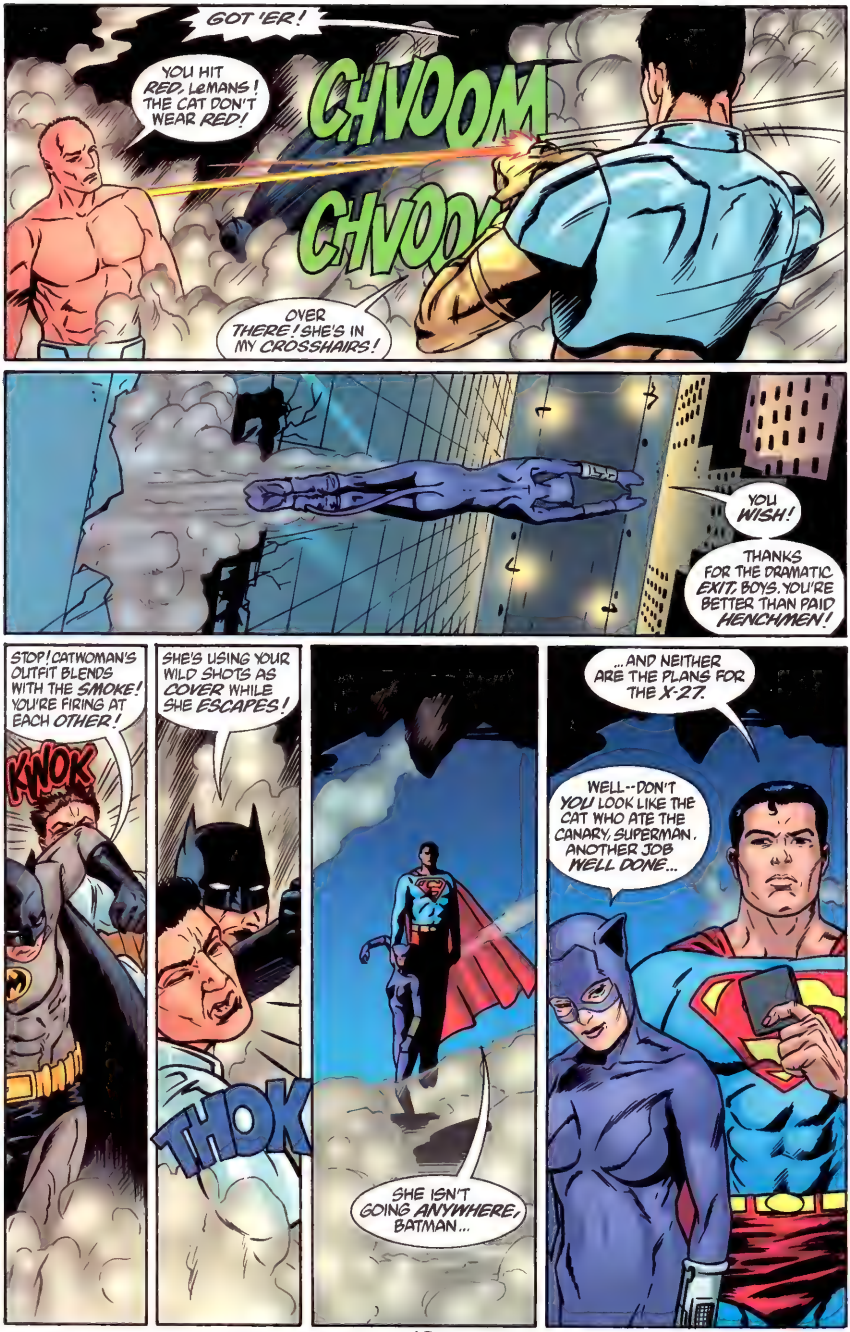
HMM. DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOOD-BYE...
SHOOM


THUMP
...AND HELLO!
WHY, BATMAN--BOTH OF US IN METROPOLIS AT THE SAME TIME?
PEOPLE WILL TALK!
HAND OVER THE X-27'S PLANS AND SET LANE FREE, CATWOMAN.
AND IF I DO, YOU'LL-- WHAT? LET ME ESCAPE?
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE. YOU'RE BOXED IN.
I HEAR SUPERMAN COMING BACK UP THE ELEVATOR SHAFT. HE'LL BE HERE ANY SECOND--

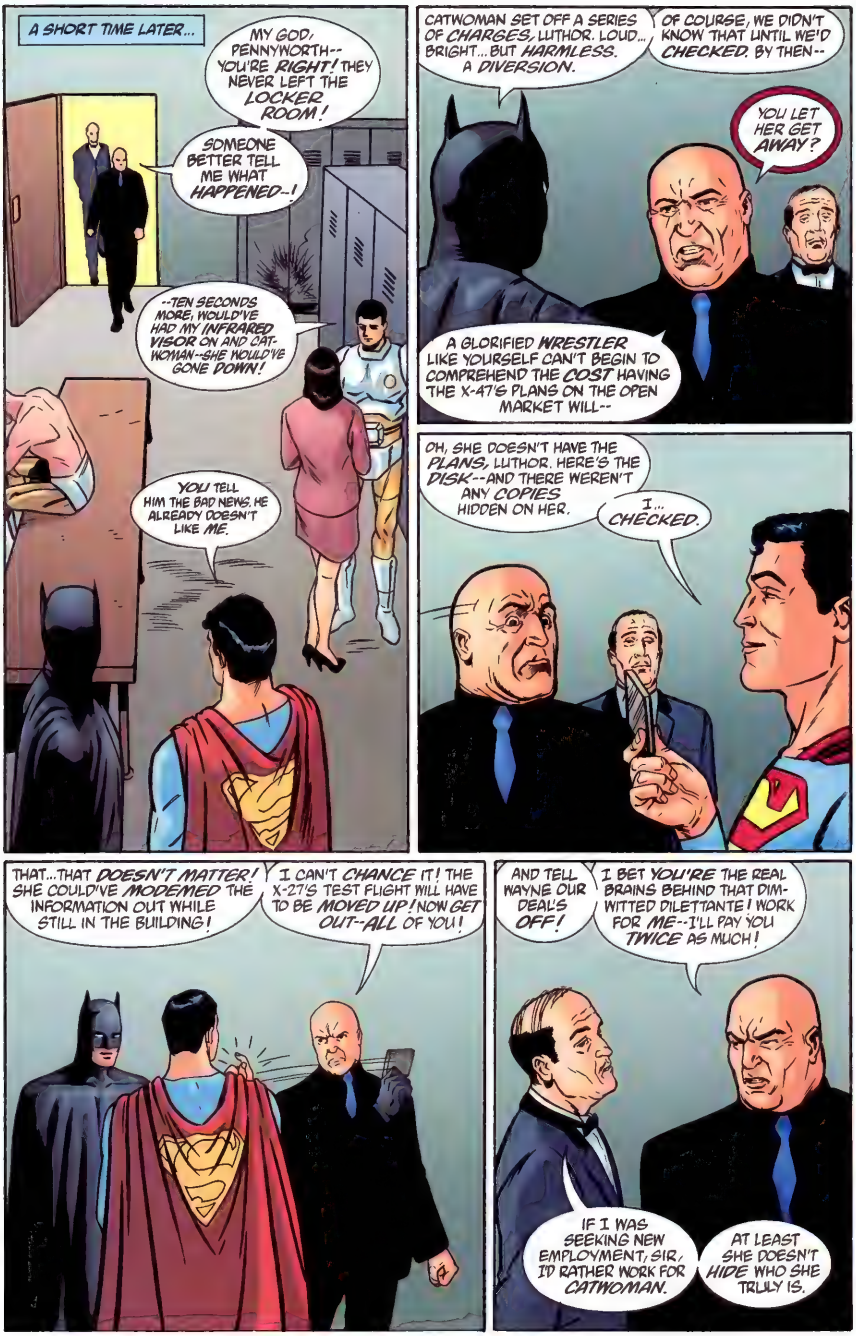
I HOPE SO!
SEE THE DOOR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ELEVATOR SHAFT?
BWUMM
NOW YOU DON'T!
HEY--!
NOT SO...
...FAST...
WHAT--? I JUST PLAYED RIGHT INTO CAT-WOMAN'S HANDS, DIDN'T I?
GET ALFRED WHILE I SECURE THE ELEVATOR. SHE MAY HAVE LANDED ON HER FEET THIS TIME...
"...BUT SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO RUN FAST ENOUGH IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO LOIS!"
THIS IS HOW IT WORKS, LANE-- I NEED SUPER-INSURANCE, YOU NEED A STORY.
KEEP MOVING AND KEEP QUIET AND WE'LL BOTH GET WHAT WE WANT. SCREAM AGAIN--AND YOU'LL NEVER SCREAM AGAIN.
SERVICES
MOVE--INTO THAT SERVICE ROOM...


--FREIGHT ELEVATOR TO STAIRWAY TO DUMBWAITER--NEVER A DULL MOMENT WITH YOU, IS THERE?
NEVER.
LET'S SEE IF THEY'RE STILL ON MY TAIL...
I SCRAMBLED SECURITY'S ACCESS TO THE MONITOR-CAMS, BUT NOT MINE, SO--
AH! THE BAT AND THE BOY SCOUT ARE JUST A FEW STEPS BEHIND. PURR-FECT! I LOVE TO PLAY HARD TO GET!
ESPECIALLY WITH BATMAN, RIGHT?
THE SPARKS BETWEEN YOU TWO--I'M SURPRISED THIS PLACE ISN'T ON FIRE!
YOU'RE A MASTER THIEF WHO CAN GET ANYTHING YOU WANT, AREN'T YOU? EXCEPT THE ONE THING YOU WANT MOST.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
DON'T TELL ME SUPERMAN GETS THAT HOT AND BOTHERED FOR EVERYONE IN METROPOLIS--AND DON'T TELL ME THE FEELING ISN'T MUTUAL!
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! I LOVE SOMEONE ELSE! I'M ENGAGED TO HIM!
ISN'T THAT HOW IT ALWAYS IS? THERE'S THE MAN YOU WANT, AND THE MAN YOU CAN HAVE--BUT THEY'RE NEVER THE SAME PERSON.
DO YOU THINK IT'S DIFFERENT FOR YOU? DO YOU THINK YOU'VE FOUND THE ONE MAN WHO'S BOTH?
--EXPLOSIONS ON THIRTY-SEVEN, MR. LUTHOR. ONE ELEVATOR'S BEEN TAKEN OUT. WE'RE INVESTIGATING--
I DON'T WANT THIS LOOKED INTO--I WANT THIS ENDED. ORDER TEAM LUTHOR INTO THEIR ARMOR.
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT...

AIN'T PAID TO SIT AROUND, PEOPLE!
DON'T STRESS, LeMANS! THAT CAT'S GOOD AS COLLARED!
YEAH! SHE'S GOT A HAIRBALL'S CHANCE AGAINST US!
HERE KITTY, KITTY, KITTY--!
TALKING ABOUT ME?
TAKE A GOOD LOOK, BOYS --BECAUSE THIS IS AS CLOSE AS YOU'LL GET!
PAHFFF
LOIS! ARE YOU--?
FINE. GUESS I SERVED MY PURPOSE --CATWOMAN CUT ME LOOSE THEN RAN IN THERE.
SMOKE WON'T HIDE HER FROM ME!
THIS IS WHERE SHE PLANNED TO MAKE HER LAST STAND. THE ROOM'S PROBABLY BOOBY-TRAPPED...
"...BE CAREFUL, SUPERMAN."
KWOOM

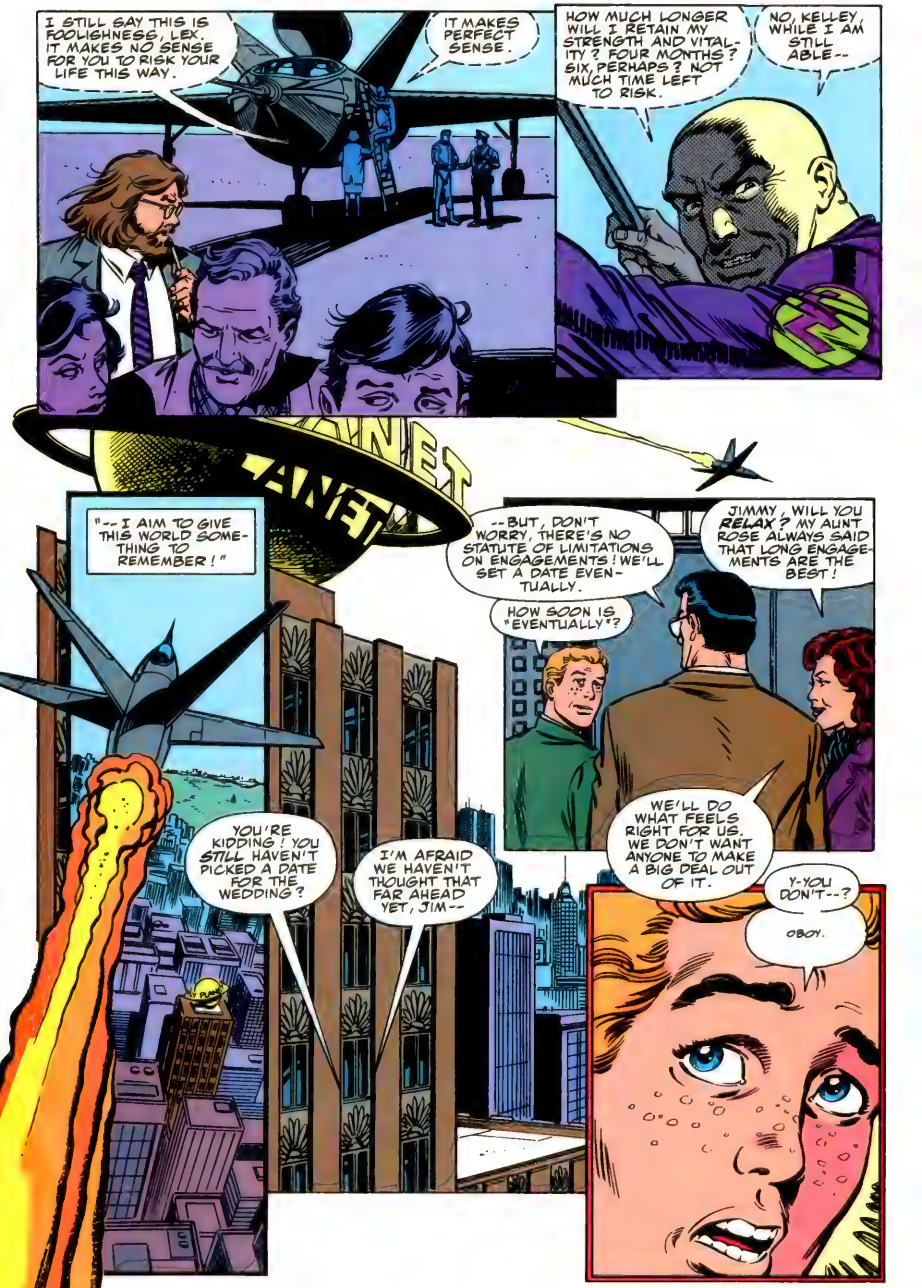

GOT 'ER!
YOU HIT RED, LeMANS! THE CAT DON'T WEAR RED!
CHVOOM
CHVOOM
OVER THERE! SHE'S IN MY CROSSHAIRS!
YOU WISH!
THANKS FOR THE DRAMATIC EXIT, BOYS. YOU'RE BETTER THAN PAID HENCHMEN!
STOP! CATWOMAN'S OUTFIT BLENDS WITH THE SMOKE! YOU'RE FIRING AT EACH OTHER!
KNOK
SHE'S USING YOUR WILD SHOTS AS COVER WHILE SHE ESCAPES!
THOK
SHE ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE, BATMAN...
... AND NEITHER ARE THE PLANS FOR THE X-27.
WELL--DON'T YOU LOOK LIKE THE CAT WHO ATE THE CANARY, SUPERMAN. ANOTHER JOB WELL DONE...

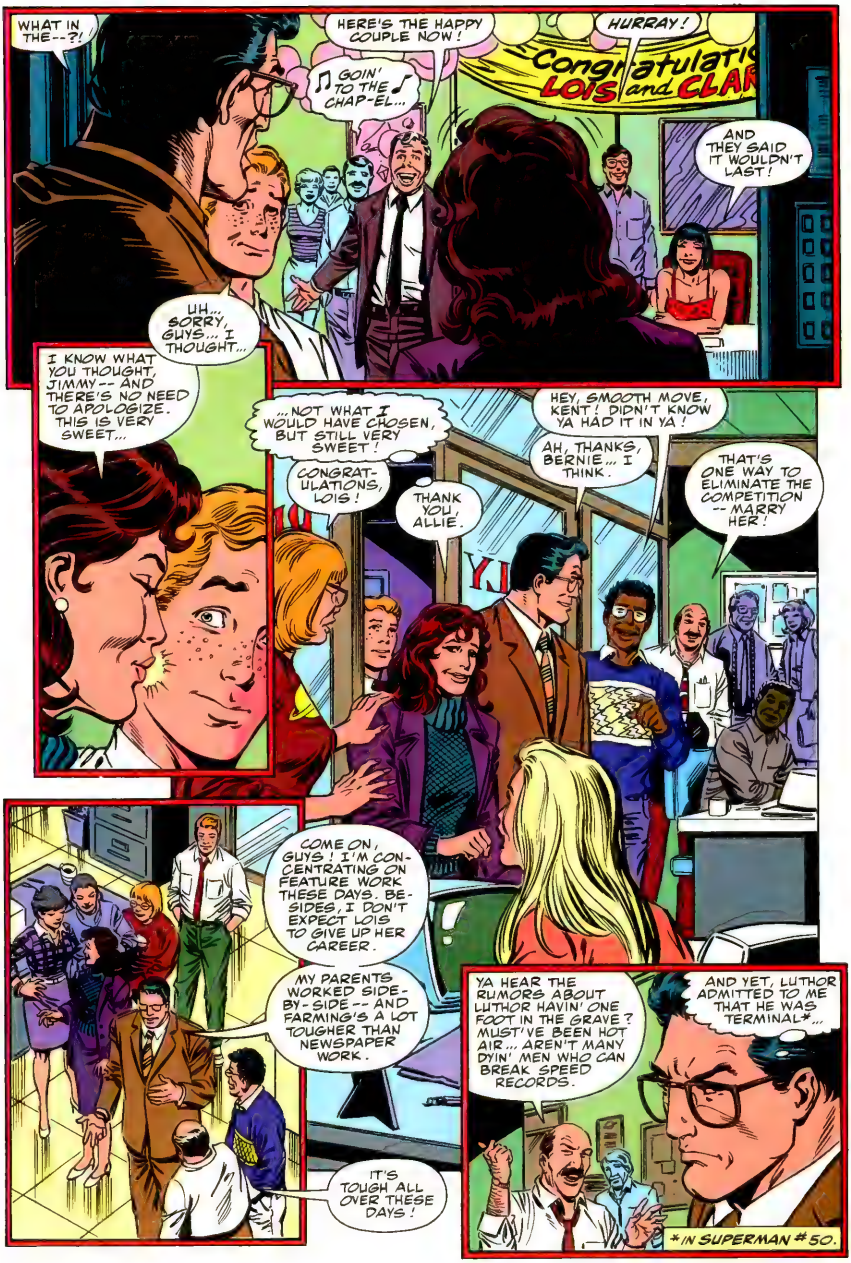
CONGRATULATIONS!
?!?
HOW SWEET-- YOU KISS LIKE A FARMBOY!
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
uhm...
TEK
GOOD THING I STILL HAVE A FEW SURPRISES OF MY OWN!
BUMM BUMM
BWOOM
BWOOM
HAVE FUN WITH THE INCENDIARIES, BOYS.
WISH I COULD STAY LONGER, BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'D INSIST ON, OH--SEVEN TO TEN YEARS!

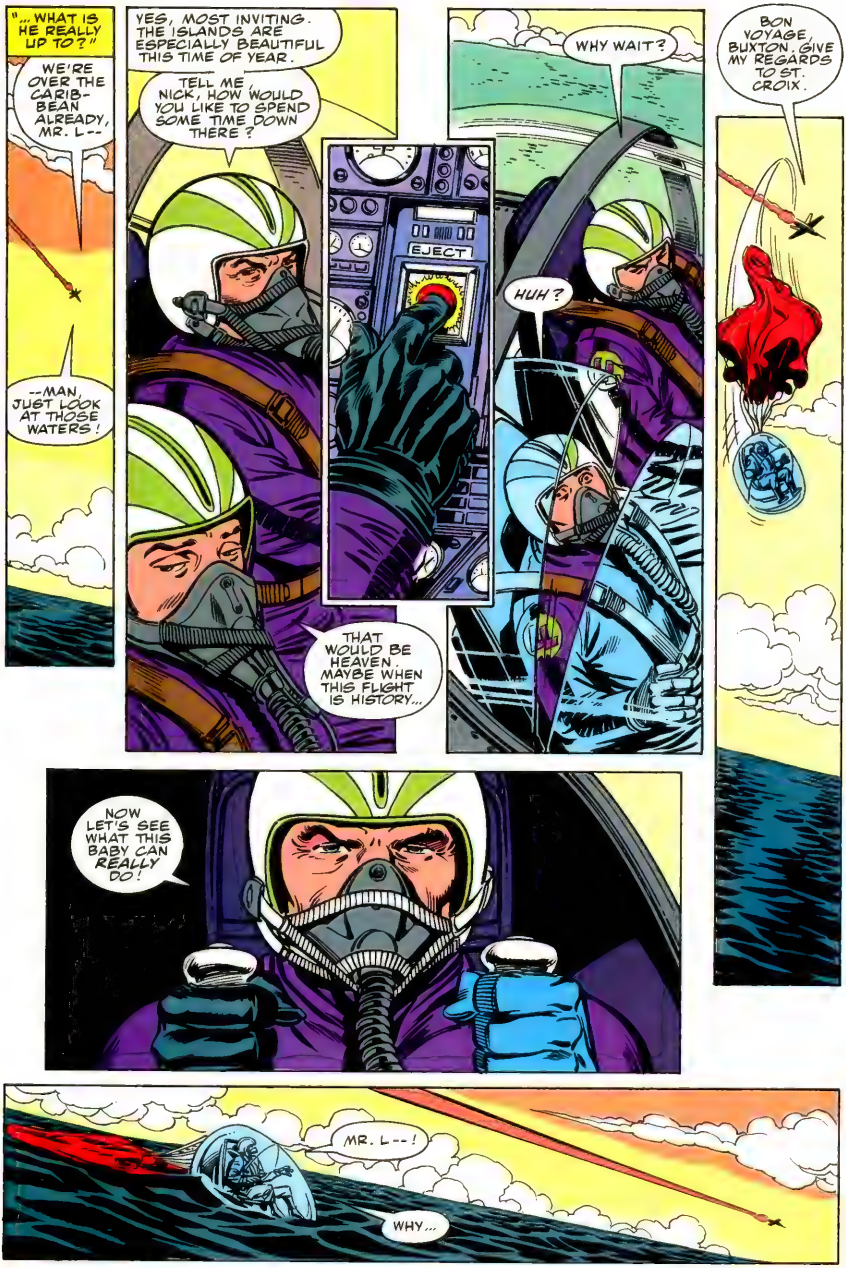

A SHORT TIME LATER...
MY GOD, PENNYWORTH--YOU'RE RIGHT! THEY NEVER LEFT THE LOCKER ROOM!
SOMEONE BETTER TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED--!
--TEN SECONDS MORE, WOULD'VE HAD MY INFRARED VISOR ON AND CATWOMAN--SHE WOULD'VE GONE DOWN!
YOU TELL HIM THE BAD NEWS. HE ALREADY DOESN'T LIKE ME.
CATWOMAN SET OFF A SERIES OF CHARGES, LUTHOR. LOUD... BRIGHT...BUT HARMLESS. A DIVERSION.
OF COURSE, WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT UNTIL WE'D CHECKED. BY THEN--
YOU LET HER GET AWAY?
A GLORIFIED WRESTLER LIKE YOURSELF CAN'T BEGIN TO COMPREHEND THE COST HAVING THE X-47'S PLANS ON THE OPEN MARKET WILL--
OH. SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE PLANS, LUTHOR. HERE'S THE DISK--AND THERE WEREN'T ANY COPIES HIDDEN ON HER.
I... CHECKED.
THAT...THAT DOESN'T MATTER! SHE COULD'VE MODEMED THE INFORMATION OUT WHILE STILL IN THE BUILDING!
I CAN'T CHANCE IT! THE X-27'S TEST FLIGHT WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED UP! NOW GET OUT--ALL OF YOU!
AND TELL WAYNE OUR DEAL'S OFF!
I BET YOU'RE THE REAL BRAINS BEHIND THAT DIM-WITTED DILETTANTE! WORK FOR ME--I'LL PAY YOU TWICE AS MUCH!
IF I WAS SEEKING NEW EMPLOYMENT, SIR, I'D RATHER WORK FOR CATWOMAN.
AT LEAST SHE DOESN'T HIDE WHO SHE TRULY IS.

UPPITY BUTLER.
L@MANS! YOU'RE FIRED!
THAT'S FOR TALKING TO THE PRESS!
WELL, YOU REALLY PUT LUTHOR IN HIS PLACE, ALFRED. DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT IN YOU.
PARDON ME, SIR-- BUT YOU'RE SCARCELY BETTER YOURSELF.
IF I MAY-- A WORD. NO-- THREE WORDS.
TELL HER.
SOON.
I KNOW. I KNOW.
IT JUST.. NEVER SEEMS TO BE THE RIGHT TIME...
BOOP BEEP BEEP BOP
HAPPERSEN. THEY RECOVERED THE DISK.
NO...NO, SCHEDULE THE X-27'S FLIGHT A.S.A.P.--AS PLANNED, I COVERED FOR HER INCOMPETENCE.
BUT MAKE SURE OUR INTERMEDIARY KNOWS CATWOMAN DOES NOT GET PAID FOR SOMETHING SHE DIDN'T STEAL.
THE ONLY THING SHE ALMOST ROBBED ME OF WAS A WELL-LAID PLAN!
KREK
BUT I WILL NOT ALLOW MY LIFE TO BE SLOWLY EATEN AWAY BY THE SAME DISEASE THAT COST ME MY HAND! I WILL SEIZE MY OWN DESTINY..
...AND ONLY I WILL DECIDE WHEN THE LAST CHAPTER IS WRITTEN!

THREE DAYS LATER...
THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT HERE THIS MORNING. AS YOU ALL KNOW, THIS IS THE MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE NEW X-27 MODEL OF THE LEX-WING --
--AND, AS STATED IN OUR NEWS RELEASE, IT IS MY INTENT TO PILOT HER TO A NEW AIR-SPEED RECORD FOR FLYING AROUND THE WORLD-- POLE TO POLE!
MR. LUTHOR!
MR. LUTHOR!
MR. LUTHOR, RUMOR HAS IT THAT YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM SOME LIFE-THREATENING AILMENT.
YES, YES... SUPPOSEDLY, I HAVE EVERYTHING FROM BERI-BERI TO THE YAWS. CAN'T A MAN LOSE A LITTLE WEIGHT WITHOUT EVERYONE PUTTING HIM AT DEATH'S DOOR?
I ASSURE YOU, I WOULDN'T BE GETTING BACK IN THE COCKPIT WITHOUT A THOROUGH EXAM...
WLEX
... MY PERSONAL PHYSICIAN CAN CONFIRM THAT. DR. KELLEY?
UH, YES... MR. LUTHOR IS PERFECTLY FIT TO FLY. HE... UH... COULD STAND TO LOSE A FEW MORE POUNDS, THOUGH.
HA HA HA!
WLEX
THERE, YOU SEE?
AND FOR THOSE OF YOU STILL DOUBTING MY MOTOR SKILLS, NEVER FEAR...
...MY CO-PILOT IS ONE OF THE FINEST JET-JOCKEYS IT'S BEEN MY PLEASURE TO EMPLOY--NICK BUXTON!
THANKS, MR. L.
GENTLEMEN... AND LADIES... IT'S A REAL THRILL TO BE FLYING WITH THE CREATOR OF THE LEX-WING. I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY, BUT...
...WELL, I CAN'T WAIT TO GET STARTED. THANK YOU.
LEX LUTHOR


I STILL SAY THIS IS FOOLISHNESS, LEX. IT MAKES NO SENSE FOR YOU TO RISK YOUR LIFE THIS WAY.
IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.
HOW MUCH LONGER WILL I RETAIN MY STRENGTH AND VITALITY? FOUR MONTHS? SIX, PERHAPS? NOT MUCH TIME LEFT TO RISK.
NO, KELLEY, WHILE I AM STILL ABLE--
"--I AIM TO GIVE THIS WORLD SOMETHING TO REMEMBER!"
--BUT, DON'T WORRY, THERE'S NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON ENGAGEMENTS! WE'LL SET A DATE EVENTUALLY.
HOW SOON IS "EVENTUALLY"?
JIMMY, WILL YOU RELAX? MY AUNT ROSE ALWAYS SAID THAT LONG ENGAGEMENTS ARE THE BEST!
YOU'RE KIDDING! YOU STILL HAVEN'T PICKED A DATE FOR THE WEDDING?
I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD YET, JIM--
WE'LL DO WHAT FEELS RIGHT FOR US. WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT.
Y-YOU DON'T--?
OBOY.

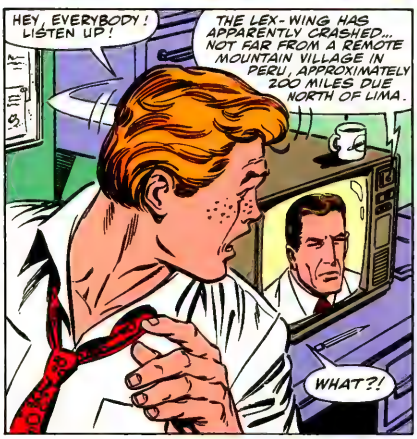

WHAT IN THE--?!
HERE'S THE HAPPY COUPLE NOW!
♫ GOIN' TO THE CHAP-EL... ♫
HURRAY!
Congratulations LOIS and CLARK
AND THEY SAID IT WOULDN'T LAST!
UH... SORRY, GUYS... I THOUGHT...
I KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT, JIMMY -- AND THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE. THIS IS VERY SWEET...
...NOT WHAT I WOULD HAVE CHOSEN, BUT STILL VERY SWEET!
CONGRATULATIONS, LOIS!
THANK YOU, ALLIE.
HEY, SMOOTH MOVE, KENT! DIDN'T KNOW YA HAD IT IN YA!
AH, THANKS, BERNIE... I THINK.
THAT'S ONE WAY TO ELIMINATE THE COMPETITION -- MARRY HER!
COME ON, GUYS! I'M CONCENTRATING ON FEATURE WORK THESE DAYS. BESIDES, I DON'T EXPECT LOIS TO GIVE UP HER CAREER.
MY PARENTS WORKED SIDE-BY-SIDE -- AND FARMING'S A LOT TOUGHER THAN NEWSPAPER WORK.
IT'S TOUGH ALL OVER THESE DAYS!
YA HEAR THE RUMORS ABOUT LUTHOR HAVIN' ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE? MUST'VE BEEN HOT AIR... AREN'T MANY DYIN' MEN WHO CAN BREAK SPEED RECORDS.
AND YET, LUTHOR ADMITTED TO ME THAT HE WAS TERMINAL*...
*IN SUPERMAN #50.

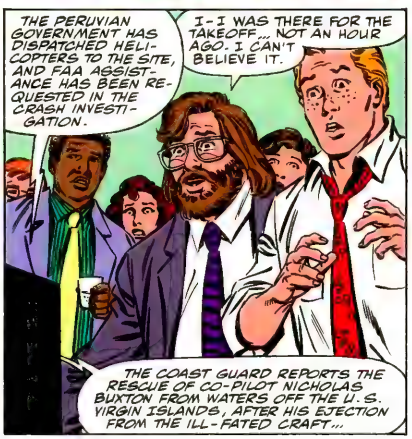

"...WHAT IS HE REALLY UP TO?"
WE'RE OVER THE CARIB-BEAN ALREADY, MR. L--
--MAN, JUST LOOK AT THOSE WATERS!
YES, MOST INVITING. THE ISLANDS ARE ESPECIALLY BEAUTIFUL THIS TIME OF YEAR.
TELL ME NICK, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME DOWN THERE?
EJECT
THAT WOULD BE HEAVEN MAYBE WHEN THIS FLIGHT IS HISTORY...
WHY WAIT?
HUH?
BON VOYAGE, BUXTON. GIVE MY REGARDS TO ST. CROIX.
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT THIS BABY CAN REALLY DO!
MR. L--!
WHY...

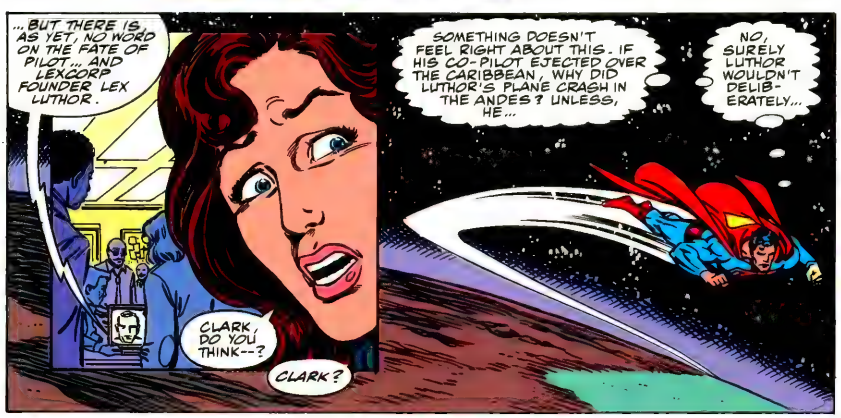
WHY...
CHIEF?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH, HELLO, KENT. PARTY STARTED ALREADY? I'LL BE RIGHT ALONG.
THAT DOESN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION...
...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW. SINCE JERRY DIED...
...SOME MORNINGS, IT'S ALL I CAN DO JUST TO GET UP. IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO LOSE A PARENT, BUT WHEN YOU LOSE A CHILD--!
PERRY, I ADMIT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE, BUT YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO HELP... EVEN IF IT'S JUST TO LISTEN.
YOU CAN COUNT ON BOTH OF US.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.
SHE'S RIGHT, PERRY. THE PLANET IS MORE THAN JUST A JOB OR A REGULAR PAYCHECK TO US.
THINK OF US AS FAMILY.
YOU KIDS ARE TOO MUCH.
PERRY WHITE EDITOR
HEY, WHO TAUGHT US HOW TO BE REPORTERS? IF WE'RE "KIDS," THEN WE'RE YOUR KIDS!

HIGH OVER THE ANDES OF PERU...
...A GLISTENING CRAFT OF TITANIUM AND CARBON COMPOSITE SUDDENLY DIPS EARTHWARD--
--AND BEGINS TO FALL.
QUE--?
FASTER.
FASTER!
THAR SHE BLOWS!
POP

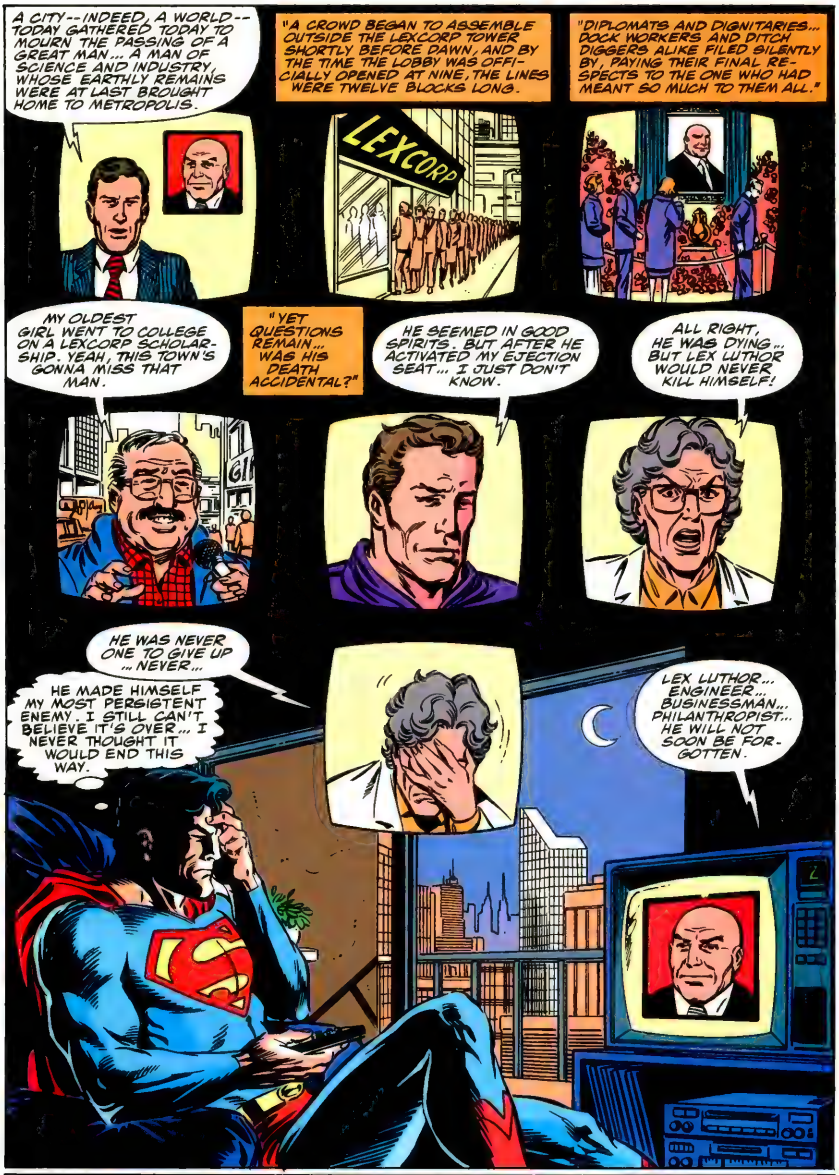
WHERE'S THE COUPLE-TO-BE? THEY SHOULD HAVE THE FIRST GLASSES!
I'M NOT TOO LATE FOR THE FOOD, AM I?
YOU, KEITH? PERISH FORBID!
... BULLETIN FROM THE WLEX NEWSROOM. THE FLIGHT OF THE X-27 LEX-WING IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ENDED IN TRAGEDY.
FIRE
DAILY
CITY


HEY, EVERYBODY! LISTEN UP!
THE LEX-WING HAS APPARENTLY CRASHED... NOT FAR FROM A REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE IN PERU, APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES DUE NORTH OF LIMA.
WHAT?!


THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DISPATCHED HELICOPTERS TO THE SITE, AND FAA ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED IN THE CRASH INVESTIGATION.
I-I WAS THERE FOR THE TAKEOFF... NOT AN HOUR AGO. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
THE COAST GUARD REPORTS THE RESCUE OF CO-PILOT NICHOLAS BUXTON FROM WATERS OFF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, AFTER HIS EJECTION FROM THE ILL-FATED CRAFT...


...BUT THERE IS, AS YET, NO WORD ON THE FATE OF PILOT... AND LEXCORP FOUNDER LEX LUTHOR.
CLARK, DO YOU THINK--?
CLARK?
SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT THIS. IF HIS CO-PILOT EJECTED OVER THE CARIBBEAN, WHY DID LUTHOR'S PLANE CRASH IN THE ANDES? UNLESS, HE...
NO, SURELY LUTHOR WOULDN'T DELIBERATELY...

HERE IT IS.
LORD, WHAT A MESS! THE WRECKAGE MUST BE SPREAD ACROSS HALF THE MOUNTAINSIDE.
WHAT SPEED WAS IT GOING WHEN...
OH, MY GOD.
BENEATH THAT SECTION...
...THESE FRAGMENTS USED TO BE THE PILOT'S SEAT. WHATEVER HAPPENED, IT WAS NEVER EJECTED. NOT MUCH LEFT OF IT...
...OR THE MAN WHO RODE IT DOWN.


A CITY--INDEED, A WORLD--TODAY GATHERED TODAY TO MOURN THE PASSING OF A GREAT MAN... A MAN OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY WHOSE EARTHLY REMAINS WERE AT LAST BROUGHT HOME TO METROPOLIS.
"A CROWD BEGAN TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE LEXCORP TOWER SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN, AND BY THE TIME THE LOBBY WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED AT NINE, THE LINES WERE TWELVE BLOCKS LONG.
"DIPLOMATS AND DIGNITARIES... DOCK WORKERS AND DITCH DIGGERS ALIKE FILED SILENTLY BY, PAYING THEIR FINAL RESPECTS TO THE ONE WHO HAD MEANT SO MUCH TO THEM ALL."
LEXCORP
MY OLDEST GIRL WENT TO COLLEGE ON A LEXCORP SCHOLARSHIP. YEAH, THIS TOWN'S GONNA MISS THAT MAN.
"YET QUESTIONS REMAIN... WAS HIS DEATH ACCIDENTAL?"
HE SEEMED IN GOOD SPIRITS... BUT AFTER HE ACTIVATED MY EJECTION SEAT... I JUST DON'T KNOW.
ALL RIGHT, HE WAS DYING... BUT LEX LUTHOR WOULD NEVER KILL HIMSELF!
HE WAS NEVER ONE TO GIVE UP ... NEVER...
HE MADE HIMSELF MY MOST PERSISTENT ENEMY. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S OVER... I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD END THIS WAY.
LEX LUTHOR... ENGINEER... BUSINESSMAN... PHILANTHROPIST... HE WILL NOT SOON BE FORGOTTEN.
"Of all the wonders that I have yet heard, it seems to me most strange that men should fear; Seeing that death, a necessary end, will come when it will come." -William Shakespeare, JULIUS CAESAR, Act II, scene II

MISTER Z!

SUPERMAN®

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

THESE TWO TECHNICIANS ARE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE, CONSIDERING THE KIND OF WORK BEING DONE HERE!

"SUPERMAN IS CARRYING TOBIN AND FABRIO OUT OF THE HOT SPOT! HAVE MEDICS READY IN DECON BAY #2."

WARNING: HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

JERRY ORDWAY • DENNIS JANKE • GLENN WHITMORE • JOHN COSTANZA • DAN THORSLAND • MIKE CARLIN • JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

art & story — inker — colorist — letterer — asst. editor — editor — soul and inspiration

HERE YOU GO, DOCTOR. I SCANNED THEIR SUITS FOR ANY TEARS OR RIPS, BUT THEY'RE INTACT.

I'M AFRAID THEY TOOK A LARGE HIT OF RADIATION, REGARDLESS, *AND* THEIR OXYGEN SUPPLY IS LOW.

WE'LL GET THEM SCRUBBED THOROUGHLY AND MONITOR THEIR EXPOSURE.

DECONTAMINATI
BAY №2 PROCE

REX CORP

MEDIC

THERE'S ABOUT SIX INCHES OF LIQUID ON THE FLOOR IN THERE...

...IT'S LEAKING FROM A GLASSED-IN HOLDING TANK!

THAT TANK HOLDS SPENT FUEL FROM OUR EXPERIMENTS...

...WE COULD RISK MELTDOWN IF WE DON'T GET THAT FLUID BACK IN THERE!

WHAT IN THE WORLD WOULD THESE PEOPLE HAVE DONE IF I HADN'T ANSWERED THE ALARM?

BETTER NOT EVEN *THINK* ABOUT IT-- I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO.

HOW TO GET THE WATER BACK IN THE TANK... *HMMM...*

FIRST, I'LL PINCH OFF THE HOLE WHERE THE STUFF IS LEAKING...

...THEN I'LL PULL THE AIR HOSE FROM THIS MASK...

EMERGENCY OXYGEN SUPPLY

... AND USE IT LIKE A *STRAW* TO GET THIS STUFF FLOWING.

NOW I'LL DRILL A HOLE ABOVE THE FLUID LEVEL...

YUCK!

SPUT

...AND LET IT FLOW BACK IN.

TO HELP IT ALONG, A BLAST OF AIR TO FORCE THE LIQUID TOWARDS THE HOSE.

THAT ABOUT DOES IT--

--THE FUEL RODS ARE COVERED AGAIN.

DOC, I NEED TO GET OUTSIDE TO BLOW THIS RADIATION OFF ME...

YOU'RE READING OFF THE SCALES, SON. CAN'T HAVE YOU CONTAMINATE THE REST OF THE BUILDING ON YOUR WAY OUT!

ALERT DO NOT PROCEED

PUT THIS SAFETY SUIT ON--IT'LL CONTAIN THE RADIATION LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO GET INTO THE SKY!

DOCTOR, THIS FACILITY ISN'T RATED FOR THE KIND OF WORK YOU'RE DOING HERE!

FOLLOW ME THROUGH THESE "SCRUBBERS."

THEY'LL CLEAN US UP ENOUGH TO PROCEED TO THE *NEXT* DECON CHAMBER.

FOOOSSH

NOT SO FAST, MISTER. THIS WASN'T JUST A LITTLE MISHAP!

HAD I NOT BEEN HERE, THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A *MAJOR* CATASTROPHE!

I ASSURE YOU, THIS WILL BE BROUGHT UP TO MY *SUPERIORS*..

YOU DO THAT, DOCTOR. I'LL TAKE *MY* RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION!

I HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING THAT EVEN YOUR LATE *BOSS* COULD HAVE GOTTEN PERMISSION TO CONDUCT THIS STUFF..

...IN THE VERY HEART OF THE CITY OF METROPOLIS!

HOW MANY ACCIDENTS LIKE *THAT* HAPPENED WHEN LUTHOR WAS AROUND?

NO DOUBT LEX CONDUCTED DANGEROUS WORK LIKE THAT...

...HE JUST WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO SLOPPY AS TO BE CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

WHOA! RE-ENTRY HAS TAKEN CARE OF MY HAVING TO DISPOSE OF THIS CONTAINMENT SUIT!

METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

"FLIGHT 1404 FROM ROMANIA, ARRIVING AT GATE E-65."

NEXT!

I HAVE NOTHING TO DECLARE...

I AM FREE TO PROCEED.

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS HAVE YOUR PASSPORT READY

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DECLARE...

YOU ARE FREE TO PROCEED.

UHHH-- NEXT!

TRANSPOR TAXIS BUSES LIMOUSIN

BORN PEREZ

I AM PEREZ.

YOU ARE PEREZ.

UM, I'LL TAKE YOU INTO THE CITY.

PEREZ

WAIT A MINUTE! I'M PEREZ!

WAIT!

GROUND TRANSPO

EXIT TO TAXIS

PEREZ

HEY, I'M PEREZ!

MR. PEREZ, YOU'RE BOOKED AT THE NOEL PLAZA.

I WISH TO BE TAKEN TO *ANOTHER* HOTEL...

SOMETHING OVERLOOKING YOUR-- CENTENNIAL PARK? IS THERE SUCH A PLACE?

SURE IS. THERE'S A FINE OLD HOTEL-- THE ANDERSON-- RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET.

LIVERY LIC# 0251 METROPOLIS

HOW MANY YEARS SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE?

FIFTY? A HUNDRED? TIME LOSES ITS MEANING AFTER SO LONG.

IT *IS* GOOD TO BE *HERE*, AFTER SO MANY YEARS IN EUROPE, 'THOUGH I LIKELY WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT ROMANIA...

...HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE "*POPULAR REVOLUTION*" THERE.

"HERE YOU GO, SIR, THE HOTEL ANDERSON."

"ENJOY YOUR STAY."

THE DAILY PLANET

DEATHS

LEX LUTHOR WILL NOT YET PLEAD IN

DEATHS

DEATH

BAILEY

THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A DOLL, AND WALKING ME TO WORK, JOSE.

I'VE GOT TO TAPE A REMOTE, AND IT'LL TAKE THE BETTER PART OF A DAY...

...SO I'LL MEET YOU TONIGHT-- *AT* THE SCHWARTZ BANQUET...

...AND *DON'T* FORGET YOUR *TUX!*

SEE YA!

BREAK A LEG, CAT!

GALAXY B

SHE GOES OFF TO TV-LAND, AND I GO OFF TO *UNEMPLOYMENT*-LAND!

I REALLY *LIKE* CAT GRANT, BUT...

I DON'T THINK SHE'S *EVER* BEEN WITHOUT MONEY...

...AND I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN *WITH.*

EXCEPT FOR THE MONEY HER EX-HUSBAND GAVE ME TO GUARD HER FROM INTERGANG, THAT IS...

Soder COLA

OPEN 24

DONA

Deli

AND *THAT* WINDFALL IS NEARLY GONE!

I'VE GOT TO GET MYSELF A *JOB*, OR I WON'T BE ABLE TO FACE *MYSELF!*

LOTTO

14 MILLION

PRIZE

FOURTEEN MILLION! *WOW*, WHAT I'D DO WITH THAT!

LOTTO 14 MILLION PRIZE

ETROPOLIS OTTERY COMMISS

OH, WHAT THE HECK!

DELICATESS

LOTTO 14 MILLION PRIZE

MAYBE MY LUCK IS ABOUT TO CHANGE!

DELICATESS

LOTTO 14 MILLION PRIZE

I'LL FEEL LUCKIER WITH THIS IN MY POCKET!

ON

HMM, MAYBE I CAN GET ON A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST?

MY STUDENTS ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS A GOOD TEACHER!

HEY, LOOK AT *THIS* DUDE.

WHAT DO YOU WHELPS WANT FROM ME?

HEY, NO SWEAT, OLD MAN! NICE *CANE*. NICE *HAT*...

ONE WAY

RUN, I'VE GOT HIS FANCY WALKING STICK!
LITTLE THIEVES, EH?
LEMME GO, MAN! I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM!
YOUR FRIEND IS FAST, NO?
HIS HEART, POWERFULLY PUMPING BLOOD TO HIS MUSCLES.
CAN YOU VISUALIZE IT, HIS HEART PUMPING AND PUMPING?
I CAN SEE AND FEEL IT, AS IF IT WERE IN MY OWN HAND...
I SEE IT SUDDENLY SEIZE UP!
-UGH!- MY CHEST-ON-FIRE--
WHAT ARE--?
MY GOD, DANNY! WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
CONSIDER THAT OUR INTRODUCTION, PUP.
UHHH-- MISTERRRR ZEEEE
PITY HE WAS NOT MORE INTERESTING...
HIS IMMORTAL SOUL MIGHT HAVE FOUND A PLACE WITHIN MY GEMSTONE!
NO P
WASTE

SOMEBODY! SOMEBODY HELP MY FRIEND!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

I'M AFRAID HE'S *DEAD*, SON.

WEIRD OLD DUDE-- HE DID THIS!

WHERE?

HE *WAS* JUST HERE, MAN...

HE JUST *TALKED* SOME FOOL BUSINESS, TWISTED HIS HAND, AND DANNY DIED!

SOME-BODY GET A COP!

THEY'LL NEED A DESCRIPTION...

HEY, I DIN'T *SEE* THE GUY'S FACE!

?

L-O-T-T-O.

MAYBE I CAN GET A *BEER* WITH IT.

COULD BE BIBBO'S LUCKY DAY!

"YUP, MY LUCKY DAY!"

"EVERYONE FRONT AND CENTER! I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY."

DAILY PLANET

MORE THAN ANY OF YOU REALIZE, I *KNOW* THE HELL I'VE BEEN PUTTING YOU THROUGH!

PERRY WHITE

DAILY PLANET MANAGING EDITOR

DAILY

FORD TO

"DROP DE

CARLIN TO ORTIWAY-- "GO FASTER"

IT STARTED AFTER MY SON'S DEATH, AND I'VE BEEN TAKING IT OUT ON *EVERYONE* AROUND ME, INCLUDING MY WIFE, ALICE.

I'VE ACTED *UNPROFESSIONALLY*, AND I ADMIT IT.

PERRY, WE ALL UNDERSTAND--

LET ME FINISH, LOIS...

MY PERSONAL PROBLEMS HAVE AFFECTED MY JOB PERFORMANCE, AND *THAT* HURTS THIS NEWSPAPER.

IN LIGHT OF THAT, I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE A *LEAVE OF ABSENCE* FROM MY DUTIES AS MANAGING EDITOR OF THE DAILY PLANET.

CHIEF, YOU CAN'T--

PERRY, NONE OF US WANT THAT...

?

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND, KENT.

BEST THING HE COULD DO.

WOW.

WHIT

PERRY CAN'T LEAVE! WHO IN HECK IS GOING TO REPLACE HIM?

HOPE IT'S NOT SOME DWEEB WHO'LL BUST MY CHOPS!

ARE YOU DONE, OLSEN?

AFTER DISCUSSION WITH OUR PUBLISHER, IT WAS DECIDED TO PULL MY REPLACEMENT FROM THE RANKS OF THE SENIOR STAFF...

NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR SAM FOSWELL.

GOOD LUCK, SAM. AND I WANT EVERYONE TO TREAT HIM WITH THE RESPECT HE DESERVES, YOU HEAR?

F-F-FOSWELL? GULP!

THANKS, PERRY. JUST SO YOU KNOW I'M ONLY DOING IT 'TIL YOU COME BACK!

YOU CAN ALL EXPECT BUSINESS AS USUAL...

ESPECIALLY WHERE BUSTING OLSEN'S CHOPS COMES IN!

;UGHNNN:

CLARK!

MR. KENT! HE'S BLACKING OUT!

GET HIM TO MY COUCH!

PERRY WHITE

GIVE US A HAND--HE'S HEAVY...

"WELCOME TO THE BLACKNESS, SUPERMAN...

"AT LONG LAST WE MEET AGAIN!"

"IF THAT INTRIGUES YOU AT ALL, I INVITE YOU TO VISIT ME IN THE ALYN AUDITORIUM OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN HISTORY."

HE'S COMING TO...

YOU'RE BURNING UP!

LOIS--I FEEL SO FOOLISH--I MUST'VE BLACKED OUT.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST, KENT.

I'LL COME BY YOUR PLACE AFTER WORK, OKAY?

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER, CLARK.

THANKS, I'LL BE OKAY.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF MR.--CLARK!

HITLER INVADES POLAND

1979

STAIRS

FIRE

THAT WAS CERTAINLY A CONVENIENT WAY TO GET AWAY.

WHOEVER THAT WAS IN MY *HEAD*, HE GOT MY ATTENTION...

PLANET ROOM

HE IMPLIED WE *MET* BEFORE-- COULD IT BE BRAINIAC?

HE'S INVADED MY SUBCONSCIOUS BEFORE.

IT DIDN'T *FEEL* LIKE BRAINIAC, THOUGH.

WELL, IT WON'T TAKE ME LONG TO GET...

...HERE. WHAT'S THE COMMOTION?

SUPERMAN!

HEY, SUPES! WHY WON'T THEY LET US IN THE MUSEUM?

MUSEUM'S CLOSED... SORRY.

SUPERMAN MAY PROCEED.

HOW COME *HE* GETS TO GO *IN*?

Pooky SARGENT

THAT GUARD WAS *MESMERIZED.*

STANDS TO REASON THAT IF MY MYSTERY FRIEND CAN REACH *ME*, THEN ORDINARY JOES CAN'T RESIST HIM EITHER.

WORLD WAR I INFANTRY

I'D BEST BE ON MY TOES IN HERE.

HMM, THIS ENTIRE MUSEUM IS EMPTY, EXCEPT FOR THE GUY AT THE DOOR.

ALYN AUDITOR

OCCUPANCY BY MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE IS FORBIDDEN BY THE METROPOLIS FIRE MARSHALL

IS THAT CONCERN FOR INNOCENTS, OR IS HE LOOKING FOR MY UNDIVIDED ATTENTION?

EXIT

THIS IS SUPERMAN. WHO WANTS TO SEE ME?

"AH, I'M SO PLEASED YOU COULD DROP IN, MY FRIEND.

"I'VE COME TO METROPOLIS EXPRESSLY TO ENCOUNTER YOU, SUPERMAN."

EVEN WITH MY X-RAY VISION, I CAN'T SEE THROUGH THIS DARKNESS.

HIS *ACCENT* IS DISTINCTLY EUROPEAN...

WHERE THE DEVIL IS HE HIDING?

YOU HAVE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE. WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID WE MEET?

WHIR-CLICK

"WE MET ON THE DAY THIS OCCURED.

"A TRAIN FULL OF PRISONERS HEADED FOR LABOR CAMPS ESCAPED DURING THIS MASSIVE DERAILMENT!"

MISTER, YOU'VE GOT TO BE MISTAKEN. THAT HAPPENED DURING WORLD WAR II.

NEVERTHELESS, IT IS TRUE. PERHAPS IT IS A STORY FOR *ANOTHER* DAY.

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT YOU ESCAPED ME THEN, NEARLY FIVE DECADES AGO...

TODAY YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE.

WHO ARE YOU!??

GAZE UPON MY SHIMMERING *JEWEL*-- MY IDENTITY WILL REVEAL ITSELF.

?

CLOSE YOUR *EYES* TO IT-- IT'S *SUCKING* YOU IN...

RESIST IT...

JUST A STUPID PIECE OF ROCK--!!

YOU CAN'T RESIST ITS *ALLURE*-- THE *DRAW* OF ITS FLAWLESS CUTS-- FLOW WITH IT.

EXCELLENT!

YOU OUGHT TO BE FLATTERED, MAN OF STEEL, FOR IN MY MANY YEARS, I HAVE MET *FEW* LIKE YOU...

OF COURSE, THEY *TOO* WOUND UP WITHIN MY *CRYSTAL*.

TRULY *GIFTED* INDIVIDUALS ARE *RARE*, AND THEIR *LIFESPANS* ARE SO *BRIEF*...

SO, IN ORDER THAT I MAY PARTAKE OF THEIR *COMPANION-SHIP* WHENEVER THE FANCY STRIKES...

...I TRAP THEIR ESSENCE WITHIN THE *LIMBO* OF THIS MAGIC GEMSTONE.

IMAGINE DISCUSSING PHYSICS WITH EINSTEIN, OR PAINTING WITH MICHELANGELO, AT YOUR LEISURE.

PITY *BOTH* WERE DENIED ME--'THOUGH THEIR CONTEMPORARIES *ARE* REPRESENTED!

"I PRAY YOU WILL *ASSIMILATE* INTO THE GROUP WITHOUT INCIDENT, SUPERMAN. SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU!

WHAT HAVE I STUMBLED ONTO?

WHY DON'T I REMEMBER--

HIS *NAME*-- IT'S MISTER Z! BUT HOW--

A *NEW* ADDITION!

HE HAS BEEN KNOWN BY *MANY* NAMES...

WHAT CENTURY BIRTHED YOU?

YOUR GARB -- SO UNLIKE THAT OF OUR LAST VISITOR...

DOES EVERYONE WEAR *SUCH* COLORFUL GARMENTS NOW?

WHERE AM I?

WE INHABIT THE SPIRITUAL PLANE OF THE *GEM*.

"Z," AS YOU KNOW HIM, IS A COLLECTOR OF SOULS...

OUR MISFORTUNE HAS BEEN THAT HE FOUND US *MUCH* TOO FASCINATING TO LIVE WITHOUT, SO HE TRAPPED US ALL IN HERE.

YOU HAVE STILL NOT TOLD US WHERE YOU WERE TAKEN FROM.

PERHAPS "Z" HAS ABANDONED THE *POETS* AND *THINKERS* FOR COMMON *CIRCUS PERFORMERS*?

NOT QUITE. I'M A--*LAW ENFORCER*...

BUT PLEASE--IF THIS *IS* A SPIRITUAL PLANE, WHAT BECOMES OF OUR BODIES?

THIS ONE DOES *NOT* BELONG. *SHUN* HIM!

YOU ARE *NOT* OF EARTH--THIS I *SENSE*!

WHO?

ILYA TARGOV--A MAD *PROPHET*.

TO OUR MISFORTUNE, "Z" TOOK A LIKING TO HIM.

HE *IS* CORRECT, SOMEHOW...

THERE *IS* SOMETHING ABOUT YOU--WE *ALL* SENSED IT...

I WAS RAISED ON EARTH, THOUGH I AM FROM ELSE-WHERE...

A DISTANT PLANET--*KRYPTON*.

THAT *TREMOR!* THERE WAS JUST SUCH A SHAKING WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED!

NONE HAVE CREATED SUCH A *STIR* IN MY TIME HERE!

COULD THE CRYSTAL'S MAGIC BE *UNABLE* TO INCORPORATE MY KRYPTONIAN--

--*HERITAGE?*

ANOTHER JOLT! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE STONE'S POWER IS DERIVED FROM THE EARTH?

...ITS INFLUENCE MAY EXTEND ONLY TO BEINGS *OF* THE EARTH? YOU MAY HOLD THE KEY TO OUR FREEDOM!

WHAT ABOUT OUR *BODIES?*

OURS ARE LONG DEAD, BUT THERE MAY BE *HOPE* FOR YOU!

FREE US.

LET'S SEE--HOW ABOUT THE LANGUAGE OF MY NATIVE WORLD, KRYPTONESE?

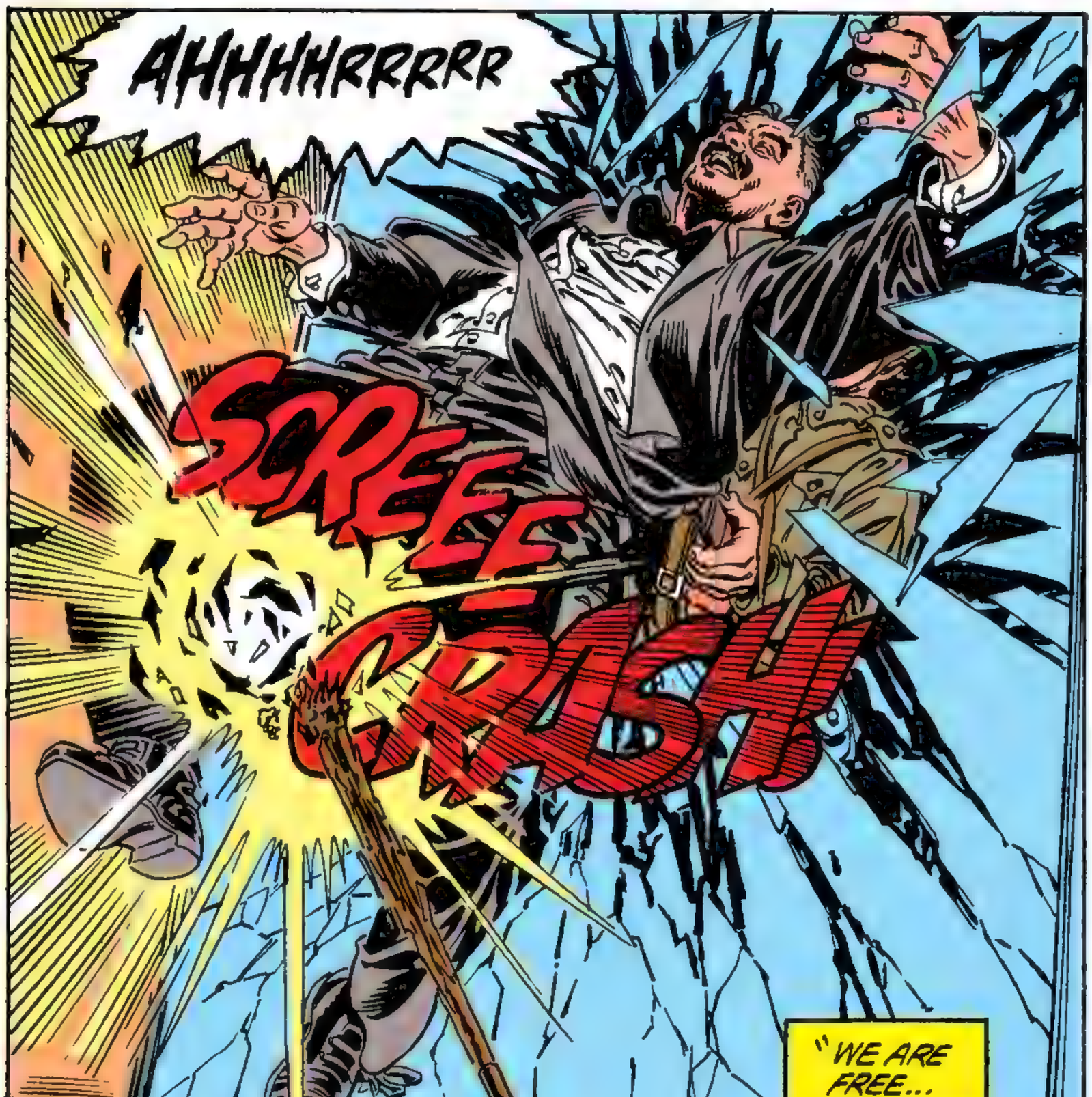
MY *GEM!* WHY CAN IT *NOT* CONTAIN THIS MAN?

IT MUST-- HE IS THE *PRIZE* OF MY COLLEC-TION!

I MUST FIND SOMETHING TO ENCASE THE GEM-- KEEP IT FROM SHATTERING UNTIL THE SUPERMAN IS ACCEPTED INTO IT...

▽8!○○
LOOK! THE SKIES!

I'M TOO LATE! IT'S SPLINTERING--


AHHHHRRRRR
SCREE
CRASH
"WE ARE FREE...

"...FREE TO DIE, THE JEWEL DESTROYED..."

EXIT

IT'S ALL OVER FOR "Z"...

...HOPE IT'S *NOT* OVER FOR ME! IF HE *DID* ANYTHING TO MY BODY WHILE I--

THANK GOD, IT APPEARS UNTOUCHED!

UNNNN

MY THROAT IS *PARCHED*, MY EARS ARE *RINGING*-- BUT I'M *ALIVE!*

EXIT

SUPERMAN!

WHAT WENT DOWN *HERE?*

THIS MAN, *UH*-- HAD US IN A SORT OF TRANCE...

DANG! ALL THAT GLASS *AND* A *BAYONET!*

PIECES OF THE GEM DIDN'T SCATTER MUCH. I'D BETTER GATHER THEM UP.

WOULDN'T WANT THEM TO FALL IN THE *WRONG* HANDS!

WHO *WAS* THIS GUY, SUPES?

MISTER--"Z," I BELIEVE...

I SUPPOSED HE WAS *IMMORTAL*...

I'D SAY YOU GOT THAT ONE *WRONG*...

"... THIS GUY'S DEADER THAN A DOORNAIL!"

MORGUE

HOLSUM DONUTS

DARN, NO MORE COFFEE.

STILL HAVE DOUGHNUTS LEFT!

SHEESH! SOME DAYS NOTHING GOES RIGHT!

"HELLO. I'D LIKE TO PICK UP THE ONE-WAY TICKET FOR SAUDI ARABIA THAT I RESERVED EARLIER."

THE NAME?

BAILEY. GEORGE BAILEY.

LIKE THE GUY IN THAT MOVIE?

PLEASE HAVE TICKET READY

FIRST CLASS

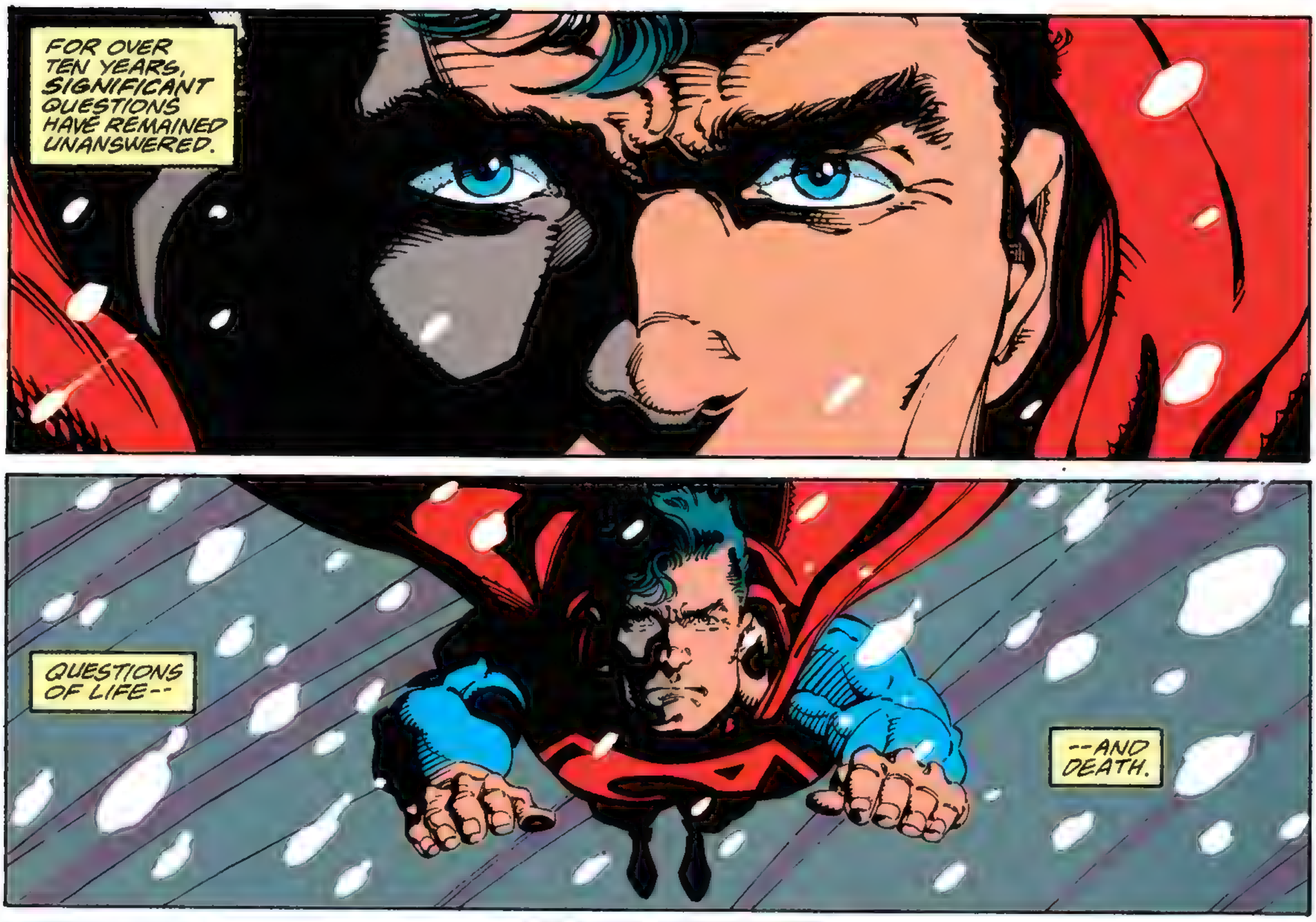
LEXAIR

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE."

OH, YES. WONDERFUL LIFE, YES IT IS.

NEXT ISSUE: TOXIC REVENGE

IN 30 DAYS, BUT FIRST BE SURE TO PICK UP ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #474, AND THEN ACTION COMICS #661


FOR OVER TEN YEARS, SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS HAVE REMAINED UNANSWERED.
QUESTIONS OF LIFE--
--AND DEATH.
TONIGHT, AS THE SPENT YEAR GIVES BIRTH TO A NEW ONE--
--THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE CONFRONTED--
--AND ANSWERED.
LOWELL COUNTY HOSPITAL
SMALL COUNTY BULLETIN
DECEMBER 30 1990
Judge rules in right to die case
Kansas prepares for New Year
SALE
CARLIN'S HOUSE O' COUCHES

NFORMATION
MERRY X-
HAPPY NEW Y
YEAH, MY HUSBAND IS WORKING TONIGHT TOO. HE'S WITH THE POLICE--
--AND WHAT WITH ALL THE DRINKING GOING ON TONIGHT THEY'RE FORCED TO RUN A FULL CREW ON NEW YEAR'S EVE!
EXCUSE ME. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT ROOM SCOTT BRUBAKER IS IN?
LET'S SEE... HERE WE ARE! SPECIAL CARE UNIT, FOURTH FLOOR!
THE ELEVATORS ARE RIGHT OVER BY THE CARD SHOP.
World's Greatest GRANDPA
NURSE
HMMPH.
WELL, I CERTAINLY AM SURPRISED TO SEE THAT YOUNG MAN HERE TONIGHT!
NO KIDDIN'... HIM BEING A BIG CITY COLUMNIST AND ALL...
I MEAN, THAT WAS CLARK KENT, RIGHT? I RECOGNIZE HIM FROM THE PICTURE THEY RUN WITH HIS SYNDICATED COLUMN!
ISN'T HE ONE OF SMALLVILLE HIGH'S MOST RESPECTED GRADUATES
No Smoking
PUSH
OH, YOUNG MR. KENT WASN'T ALL PEACHES AND CREAM, LET ME TELL YOU.
HE WAS ONE OF THE PUNKS INVOLVED WITH THE TRAGEDY THAT LANDED SCOTT BRUBAKER HERE, MY DEAR!
OH, YEAH... BRUBAKER?! HE'S THE ONE WHOSE PARENTS HAVE DECIDED TO--
OH, WOW.

I TELL YOU, MY GIRLFRIEND WAS SO TICKED I HAD TO WORK TONIGHT THAT I MAY STAY *HERE* FOR GOOD.

MY HUSBAND ISN'T TOO HAPPY EITHER. FRANKLY, I WOULDN'T MIND IT SO MUCH--

--IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT *BRUBAKER* THING TONIGHT!

GUESS I JUST DON'T AGREE WITH WHAT HIS PARENTS ARE DOING.

YEAH, I REALIZE THEY FEEL ALL HOPE IS LOST, BUT--

HAPPY NEW YEAR, SIR. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

FIRST AID

LEATHER DUNGEON ROCKS

I KNOW VISITING HOURS ARE PROBABLY OVER--

--BUT I'M LOOKING FOR SCOTT BRUBAKER.

OH. WELL...

HIS ROOM IS RIGHT AT THE END OF THE HALL. I HOPE YOU KNOW THE FAMILY WELL, THOUGH.

I MEAN, YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO INTRUDE...NOT TONIGHT ANYWAY.

SCOTT AND I GO WAY BACK, AND I'D LIKE TO SEE HIS PARENTS AS WELL.

Snacks

Soft drinks

MAYBE I CAN GET THEM TO *UNDERSTAND.*

WITH ANY LUCK--

--MAYBE I'LL UNDERSTAND WHY I'M HERE, AS WELL.

HERE'S THE BALL, ROSS. LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU CAN DO AGAINST THE DEFENSE!

RUBAKER

ON MY WAY, COACH.

PRACTICE IS WHERE YOU MAKE THE TEAM, PETE!

BLAST IT, ROSS, YOU COULDN'T RUN THROUGH A SHEET OF TOILET PAPER!

COACH

NO WONDER ALL WE EVER LET YOU DO IS BLOCK FOR KENT!

YOU'RE THE BEST IN THE CONFERENCE, KENT! SHOW 'EM HOW IT'S DONE!

COACH

SMALLEY

YOU GOT IT, COACH!

MISSED HIM!

LIKE TRYING TO TACKLE GREASED LIGHTNING!

THE ONLY ONE LEFT WITH A CHANCE IS BRUBAKER!

OH, MAN! BRUBAKER NAILED HIM!

WAY TO GO, BRU!

40

53

IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER, KENT, I'D THINK YOU LET ME TACKLE YOU!

I'LL NEVER TELL, BRU!

WELL, WHATEVER... IT'S A GOOD THING YOU WENT DOWN WHEN YOU DID--

--IF YOU'D GOTTEN BY ALL OF US, COACH WOULDA HAD THE DEFENSE RUNNIN' WIND SPRINTS 'TIL SUNDOWN!

AND YOU GUYS WOULD WANNA KILL ME... I KNOW. WHO NEEDS THE GRIEF?

HEY, THANKS FOR MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD, MAN. YOU'RE OKAY IN MY BOOK!

GOD, I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO TURN AROUND AND WALK AWAY.

BUT I CAN'T. NOT AGAIN... NOT ANY MORE.

15

30

I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT YOU MUST HAVE THE WRONG ROOM.

UH... MAYBE NOT, MADGE. SOMETHING... SEEMS FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS YOUNG MAN...

TELL ME, SON, HAVE WE MET?

MR. AND MRS. BRUBAKER--

--I'M CLARK KENT.

CLARK KENT? YOU WERE IN MY SON'S CAR, WEREN'T YOU? THE NIGHT HE-- HE--

HE SURE WAS, MADGE! LOOK HERE, MR. KENT, I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE--

--BUT WE HAVE AN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT NIGHT AHEAD OF US AND WE'D RATHER DEAL WITH THIS *PRIVATELY*!

PLEASE... FORGIVE MY INTRUSION...

I HAD TO COME.

YOUR PLANS FOR TONIGHT HAVE BEEN WELL CHRONICLED IN THE PRESS--

--SO I UNDERSTAND HOW *PAINFUL* IT WILL BE AND ALL...

SILENT NIGHT

Santa's coming...

SEE HERE, KENT. WE'RE ALL AWARE THAT YOU'RE A *NEWSPAPER MAN*...

...AND, IF YOU'VE COME HERE LOOKING FOR A STORY, IT WOULD BE JUST ABOUT THE MOST *UNETHICAL* THING I'VE EVER--

A STORY IS ABSOLUTELY THE *LAST* THING ON MY MIND.

I'M HERE BECAUSE SCOTT WAS A FRIEND OF MINE.

BUT IT GOES EVEN DEEPER THAN THAT. AND THOUGH HE'S BEEN IN A COMA ALL THESE YEARS--

--AND I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN SCOTT SINCE... WELL, THAT TIME--

--I FEEL A... KIND OF CONNECTION WITH SCOTT.

A CONNECTION THAT MAKES IT IMPORTANT FOR ME TO SAY "GOOD-BYE" BEFORE HE DIES.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, MR. KENT.

WE'VE SPENT *MONTHS* IN COURT CONVINCING JUDGES THAT SCOTT WOULD NEVER RECOVER--

--THAT HE'D ALWAYS BE LIKE... LIKE... *THIS*.

MR. BRUBAKER, I DIDN'T COME HERE TO *HURT* ANYONE, BUT...

PAINFUL DOESN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE OUR ORDEAL.

AND YOUR PRESENCE TONIGHT IS *NOT* HELPING.

I KNOW YOU'RE SURPRISED BY THIS SINCE SCOTT AND I WEREN'T THE BEST OF FRIENDS.

BUT LIKE I SAID--THERE'S THIS *CONNECTION!*

JEEZ, I SURE WISH MA AND PA WOULD LET ME BUY A CAR.

NO KIDDIN', CLARK-O! HIKIN' THREE MILES FROM PRACTICE TO YOUR FARM IS A DEFINITE *DRAG!*

BETTER MOVE OVER. SOMEONE'S COMIN'!

HONK HONK

HEY, YOU HAYSEEDS LOOKIN' FOR A LIFT?

BRUBAKER! I THOUGHT YOU "TOWNIES" WERE TOO GOOD TO HANG OUT WITH FARM BOYS! WHAT GIVES?

WHO CARES? BRU'S GOT THE COOLEST WHEELS IN SCHOOL!

NOTHIN' GIVES, KENT. YOU MADE ME LOOK GOOD TODAY AND I KNEW YOU HAD TO LEG IT HOME--

--SO I FIGGERED I'D RETURN THE FAVOR!

Scott

YOU'RE ON, BRU!

Clar

MAN, I'D SURE GIVE A *LOT* FOR A CAR LIKE THIS!

HECK, IT'S REAL NEAT JUST TO RIDE IN IT, RIGHT, CLARK-O?

JUST TELL YOUR FOLKS WHERE IT'S AT, KENT!

TELL 'EM YOU GOTTA HAVE WHEELS OR *ELSE*.

WON'T WORK, BRU! THEY'RE MAKING ME SAVE UP FOR COLLEGE!

BUMMER, KENT! OH, WELL -- NEXT STOP, SQUARESVILLE FARM!

BACK THEN THERE WAS LITTLE SOCIALIZING BETWEEN TOWN KIDS AND FARM KIDS.

SCOTT AND I WERE STARTING TO OVERCOME SOME OF THAT BEFORE--

-- THE INCIDENT.

SO THAT'S HOW YOU, PETE, AND LANA CAME TO BE AT OUR HOUSE THAT NIGHT!

"THAT *NIGHT*"! "*INCIDENT*"! MY, GOD, SCOTT'S ABOUT TO *DIE* AND WE'RE AFRAID TO EVEN *TALK* ABOUT WHAT *HAPPENED*!

AND AT THE SAME TIME... WE SEEM UNABLE TO ***STOP*** TALKING ABOUT IT.

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE WE SO DESPERATELY WANT TO HAVE THAT NIGHT *BACK*, CHARLES.

I KNOW I WOULD.

ANYTHING TO HAVE PREVENTED THIS.

IF ONLY YOU KNEW HOW WE'VE TORTURED OURSELVES WITH THAT SAME THOUGHT!

WHEN WE WENT OUT TO CELEBRATE THAT NIGHT WE HAD *NO IDEA* WHAT SCOTT WAS UP TO!

NO IDEA THAT HE PLANNED TO THROW A PARTY IN YOUR HOME?

NO IDEA OF THE *TYPE* OF PARTY IT WOULD BE?

CERTAINLY *NOT*! WHY, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS LEGAL AGE WE *NEVER* ALLOWED SCOTT TO DRINK ALCOHOL AT EIGHTEEN!

MAYBE NOT. BUT THAT NEW YEAR'S EVE NIGHT THERE WAS *PLENTY* TO DRINK AT THAT PARTY--

--AND WITH ALL THE *KIDS* THERE IT MADE FOR A *VOLATILE* COMBINATION.

SEEMS SOMEHOW FITTING THAT TONIGHT'S WEATHER IS AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE NIGHT IN QUESTION.

RATHER POETIC IN A WAY.

NO *DOUBT*, CLARK-O, THIS IS GONNA BE THE BEST PARTY *EVER*.

I *STILL* CAN'T BELIEVE WE WERE *INVITED*!

COULD BE KIND OF A DUBIOUS HONOR, PETE. BY THE WAY, KYLE, THANKS FOR THE RIDE.

ANY TIME, MAN.

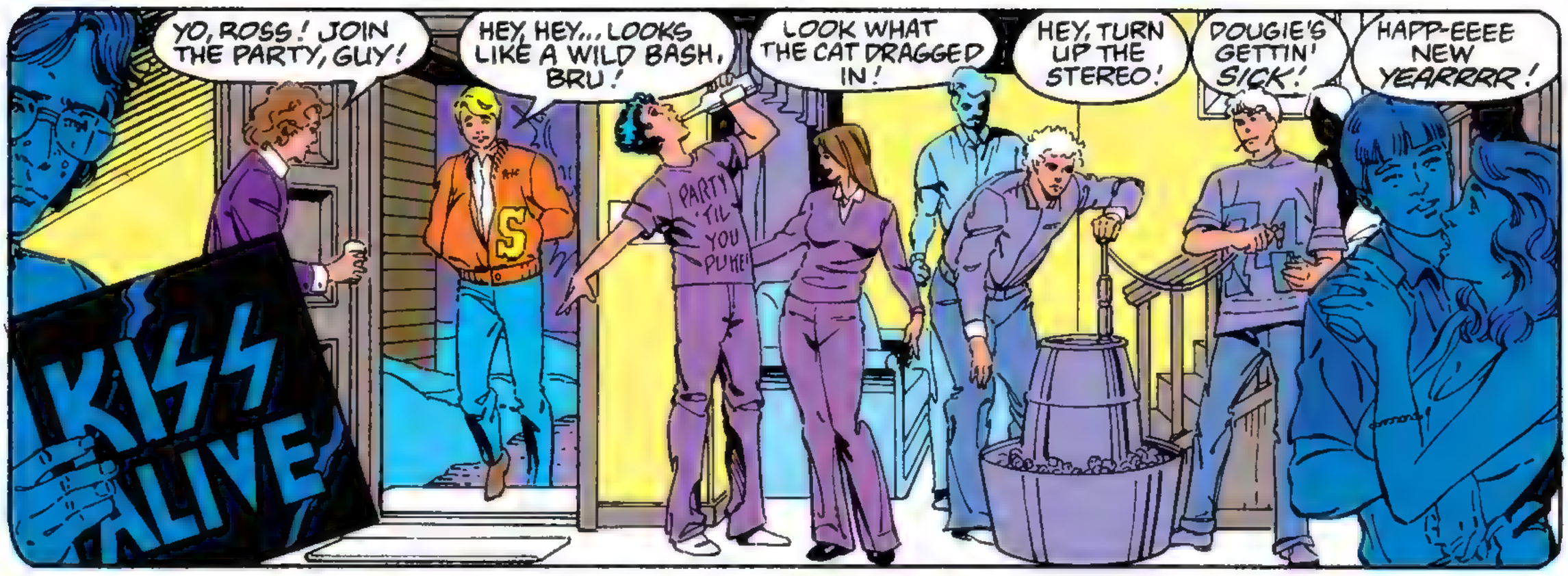
YOU'RE *WRONG*, CLARK-O! THIS IS *MORE* THAN JUST A PARTY!

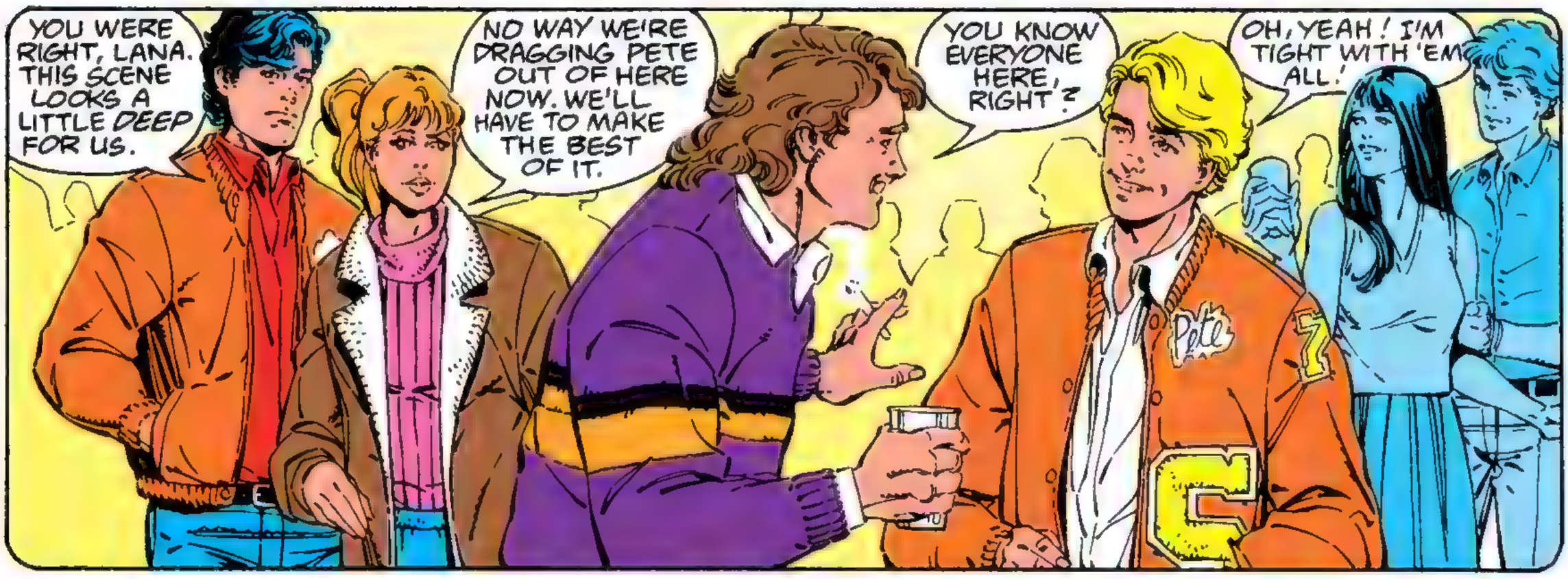
BET WE'RE THE ONLY FARM KIDS HERE TONIGHT!

BETTER KEEP OUR EYES ON PETE. HE WANTS TO FIT IN WITH THIS CROWD SO BAD HE'D DO *ANYTHING*.

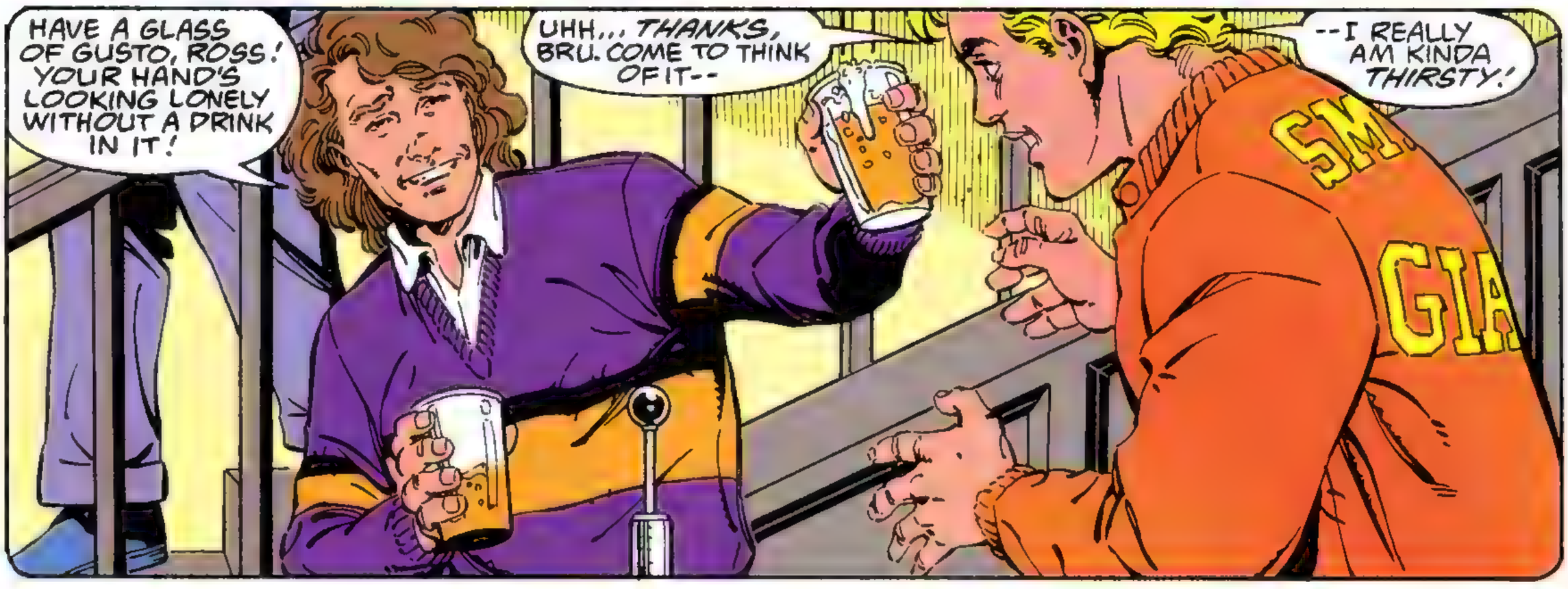
AND I GET THE FEELING THERE MIGHT BE *DRINKING* HERE!

YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.


YO, ROSS! JOIN THE PARTY, GUY!
KISS ALIVE
HEY, HEY... LOOKS LIKE A WILD BASH, BRU!
PARTY 'TIL YOU PUKE!
LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN!
HEY, TURN UP THE STEREO!
DOUGIE'S GETTIN' SICK!
HAPP-EEEE NEW YEARRRR!


YOU WERE RIGHT, LANA. THIS SCENE LOOKS A LITTLE DEEP FOR US.
NO WAY WE'RE DRAGGING PETE OUT OF HERE NOW. WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT.
YOU KNOW EVERYONE HERE, RIGHT?
OH, YEAH! I'M TIGHT WITH 'EM ALL!
Pete

I DIDN'T REALIZE SCOTT HAD PLANNED A PRAYER MEETING TONIGHT!
YEAH, I THOUGHT THOSE GOODY-TWO-SHOE TYPES WERE TOO GOOD TO HANG OUT WITH US!
MAYBE THEY'RE HERE TO SPIKE THE BOOZE WITH PUNCH! HAW!
SMALLVILLE GIANTS


HAVE A GLASS OF GUSTO, ROSS! YOUR HAND'S LOOKING LONELY WITHOUT A DRINK IN IT!
UHH... THANKS, BRU. COME TO THINK OF IT--
--I REALLY AM KINDA THIRSTY!

YOU DESERT TRAVELLERS LOOK KINDA THIRSTY TOO! DRINK UP!

NO THANKS, SCOTT. DRINKING'S NOT MY BAG.

YEAH. DO YOU HAVE ANY SOFT DRINKS?

Pete

Clark

6

CRUDE AND RUDE, MAN.

TOO *PURE* TO PARTY LIKE US?

C'MON, KENT! YOU AIMING FOR THE SEMINARY OR SOMETHING?

HEY, CLARK-O, ARE YOU *NUTS*? IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE NOT *OLD* ENOUGH!

YOU WANT THE WHOLE GANG TO THINK WE'RE A BUNCHA *NERDS*?

VILLE

I MEAN, THE WHOLE *TOWN* IS GONNA FIGURE US FOR WEAK SISTERS!

DON'T BE SUCH A STRAIGHT ARROW, OKAY?

JOIN THE CROWD!

AWW, WHAT THE HECK?

MIGHT AS WELL START THE NEW YEAR WITH A BANG!

CLARK?

NOW *THAT* IS WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR!

WOW, LOOK AT THE TIME! WE'VE BEEN HERE OVER THREE HOURS!

MAN, IS PA EVER GONNA BE SORE! HE EXPECTED ME HOME AN HOUR AGO!

DON'T EXPECT KYLE TO TAKE LISH HOME, CLARK! HE'SH *PASSED OUT!*

C'MON ON, PETE, WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY HOME BEFORE WE GET IN *BIG* TROUBLE!

S-SHURE, CLARK-O. TRUTH TA TELL, I THINK I'M ALREADY IN BIG TROUBLE. I AIN'T FEELIN' SO HOT.

OOO, YOU ARE LOOKING KIND OF *GREEN*, PETEY!

KNOW WHAT? I THINK WE'RE DRUNK.

I THINK *I'M* GONNA BE *SHICK!*

REALLY?

I DON'T FEEL A THING-- LIKE I'VE BEEN DRINKING *SODA OR MILK!*

WORD HAS IT YOU GUYS NEED A LIFT OR IT'S TROUBLE CITY!

BRUBAKER'S TAXI SERVICE IS READY TO ROLL!

YOU'VE HAD QUITE A FEW BEERS, SCOTT. THINK MAYBE I SHOULD DRIVE?

NO WAY, JOSE!

NOBODY DRIVES THESE WHEELS BUT *ME!*

MAYBE SO, SCOTT, BUT LIKE I SAID--

--YOU SEEM KINDA--I DON'T KNOW--

--OUT OF IT.

GIMME A BREAK, KENT, I'M *FINE*! DON'T BE SUCH A WORRYWART!

BESIDES, LAST I SAW, YOU WERE FILLING UP PRETTY GOOD AT THE KEG, TOO!

SPEAKING OF WHICH--

--HOW 'BOUT WE GIVE UP THE SISSY JUICE--

--FOR SOMETHING WITH MORE KICK?

YOUR CHOICE, KENT! YOU CAN EITHER SIT BACK THERE AND FUSS LIKE AN OLD HEN--

--OR YOU CAN KEEP THE PARTY GOIN' WITH THE REST OF US!

GEE, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU SHOULD, CLARK...

NO. I'M JUST NOT INTO THIS KIND OF STUFF.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY, BOY SCOUT!

AND HERE I WAS THINKIN' YOU WERE A COOL GUY!

YOU WANNA MAKE US LOOK BAD OR SUMTHIN', CLARK?

SO THE GUY DOESN'T WANNA PARTY! BIG DEAL!

WON'T STOP US FROM TAKIN' THE CHAMPAGNE FLIGHT, EH, ROSS?

UHH... I--LIKE I SAID, I'M NOT FEELIN' TOO HOT...

HEY, THAT CAR--

HONNK!

STOP

CRASH

HOLY CATS, SCOTT! YOU JUST RAN RIGHT THROUGH A STOP SIGN!

I DID?

NAH... YOU'RE JUST SEEIN' THINGS!

LOOK, SCOTT, I THINK YOU BETTER PULL OVER RIGHT NOW AND LET *ME* DRIVE!

OH, *COOL* IT, KENT! WE'LL BE AT YOUR PLACE ANY SECOND!

WHY CAN'T YOU BE AS RELAXED AS ROSS? HE'S FALLEN ASLEEP, HE'S SO MELLOW!

CONSIDERING ALL THE TIME HE SPENT IN FRONT OF THE KEG I'M NOT SURPRISED.

ACTUALLY, HE'D PROBABLY RATHER SLEEP THAN WATCH YOU GUYS PLAY SNUGGLES IN THE BACK SEAT.

HECK, EVERYONE IN SCHOOL EXCEPT YOU TWO KNOWS THAT ROSS HAS THE HOTS FOR LANA!

WITH MR. STRAIGHT "A", SUPER-JOCK KENT IN THE WAY--

--HE'S GOIN' NOWHERE FAST.

FORGET ABOUT US, SCOTT AND KEEP YOUR EYES ON--

LOOK OUT!

JENKINS
MOVERS
BRONNK
BRRRONK
WE'RE IN THE WRONG LA--
BRAASH!
UHN... CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

I'M ALIVE.
I'M ALIVE.
I'M ALIVE
I'M--
LANA!
LANA?
LANA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
OH, GOD, PLEASE LET HER BE OKAY!
C'MON, PETE, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE FINE! WE'LL GET HELP AS SOON AS WE CAN.
WHU-- WHAT HAPPENED?

WE WERE STUPID, PETE.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
AND NOW WE'RE GOING TO PAY THE PRICE.
WHAT THE *HELL'S WRONG* WIT' YOUSE KIDS? YOU RAN MY RIG RIGHT OFF THE *ROAD!*
I RADIOED AN AMBULANCE ON MY *CB.* THEY OUGHTA BE HERE SOON!
THANKS, MISTER.
IT SURE LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE NEEDING THEM.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE PARAMEDICS COULDN'T HELP MUCH.
SCOTT WAS IN TOUGH SHAPE; HE'D ALREADY SLIPPED INTO HIS COMA.
AND BECAUSE I DIDN'T PREVENT SCOTT FROM DRIVING--
--AND TAKE THE WHEEL LIKE I *SHOULD* HAVE--
--THE ACCIDENT WAS *MY FAULT!*

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, MR. KENT.

WAY I SEE IT, YOU KIDS WERE GUILTY OF *BAD JUDGMENT.* NOTHING MORE.

YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THAT ACCIDENT ANY MORE THAN WE CAN!

WHY, YOU'D BEEN DRINKING YOURSELF!

YEAH! MAYBE YOU *FELT* SOBER--

--BUT THAT SURE DOESN'T MEAN YOU WERE!

AND EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY NOT HAVE ENDED THE NIGHT IN THE HOSPITAL LIKE THE OTHERS DID--

--I BET YOUR FOLKS WERE SURE TO POINT OUT THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS!

YOU CAN'T *BEGIN* TO IMAGINE HOW *DISAPPOINTED* WE ARE IN YOU, CLARK!

YOU'RE JUST LUCKY YOU WEREN'T *KILLED* TONIGHT, SON!

I KNOW.

WE THOUGHT WE'D TAUGHT YOU BETTER, CLARK. WE THOUGHT THAT YOU KNEW RIGHT FROM WRONG.

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?

I--I GUESS BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE WAS. AND WHEN SCOTT OFFERED TO TAKE US HOME--

--I LET HIM DRIVE EVEN THOUGH I *KNEW* HE WAS DRUNK.

WELL, I HOPED YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON.

ALCOHOL AND CARS SIMPLY *DON'T MIX!*

YOU KNOW WHAT'S REALLY WEIRD, THOUGH?

THAT SEMI REALLY *CREAMED* US AND IT WAS LIKE I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL IT.

IT'S LIKE THE TIME THAT BULL TRAMPLED ME WHEN I WAS A KID. I DIDN'T GET A SCRATCH THEN, EITHER!

I MUST HAVE SOME KIND OF GUARDIAN ANGEL OR SOMETHING.

MAYBE IT'S THAT, MAYBE IT'S LUCK. BUT I DON'T WANT YOU EVER TAKING CHANCES LIKE THIS, YOU HEAR?

IT'S NOT JUST YOUR OWN SAFETY YOU HAVE TO THINK OF... BUT OTHERS' AS WELL.

YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY, CLARK, TO WATCH OUT FOR YOUR FELLOW MAN.

YOUR MA'S RIGHT. YOU MAY HAVE *THOUGHT* YOU WERE SOBER, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU WERE WELL ENOUGH TO DRIVE!

I'M SORRY. I GUESS YOU DON'T THINK MUCH OF ME NOW, HUH?

OH, DON'T BE *SILLY!* WE *LOVE* YOU! IT'S JUST THAT WE WANT YOU TO DO THE RIGHT THING--

"--AND BE THE KIND OF RESPONSIBLE MAN WE KNOW YOU CAN BE."

STRANGE. UNTIL TONIGHT, I DON'T KNOW IF I EVER REALIZED WHAT A PROFOUND IMPACT THAT ACCIDENT HAD ON MY LIFE.

IT TAUGHT ME THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO LIVE LIFE.

YOU GOTTA DO THE RIGHT THING.

THE WORLD FOSTERS COUNTLESS TRAGEDIES--

--AND ALL WE CAN DO AS INDIVIDUALS IS TRY TO PREVENT EVEN *ONE* OF THEM FROM HAPPENING.

IS THAT WHY YOU'RE A REPORTER, MR. KENT?

JOURNALISM GIVES ME THE CHANCE TO ADDRESS A NUMBER OF INJUSTICES, MR. BRUBAKER.

UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T CURE THEM.

REST IN PEACE, SCOTT. I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR NOT BEING THE MAN I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THAT NIGHT.

I THINK YOU'RE THAT KIND OF MAN NOW, MR. KENT.

AND EVEN THOUGH YOU HARDLY NEED FORGIVENESS I'M SURE SCOTT WOULD HAVE OFFERED IT LONG AGO.

THANK YOU FOR COMING.

THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

I HOPE YOU'LL FIND THE RELIEF YOU DESERVE ONCE SCOTT IS GONE.

"WE HOPE SO TOO, MR. KENT. WE HOPE SO TOO."

WAAA-HOOO THAT SIMMONS SHER KNOWSH HOW TO THROW A NEW YEAR'SH BASH, DON'T HE?

IT WAS A KICKER ALL RIGHT WHERE TO NOW?

HOW 'BOUT WE HIT THE GARRISON PARTY? BET IT'SH SHTILL GOIN' SHTRONG!

OOO, LET'S DO IT!

HEY!

WHAT THE SAM HILL IS GOIN' ON HERE?

ALL MY TIRES ARE MELTED DOWN TO NUTHIN'!

IT'S FREEZING OUT HERE... HOW'D THIS HAPPEN?

HOW?

FACE TO FACE WITH YESTERDAY

DAN JURGENS: STORY AND DRAWING
ART THIBERT: FINISHED INKING
ALBERT DE GUZMAN: LETTERING
GLENN WHITMORE: COLORING
MIKE CARLIN: EDITING
DAN THORSLAND: ASS'T EDITING
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER: CREATORS OF SUPERMAN.

SO WHEN MY SUPERVISOR ASKED ME TO SUBSTITUTE ON THE TOKYO RUN I JUST COULDN'T SAY NO
UH-HUH COULDN'T
I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS JIMMY I'M SURE YOU HAD BETTER THINGS TO DO ON YOUR DAY OFF THAN HAUL ME TO THE AIRPORT
SOKAY, LUCY DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS
WELL IT WAS STILL SWEET OF YOU I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU WHEN I GET BACK
BYE!
WOW MR OLSEN YOU MAY HAVE A LOVE LIFE YET
EASTAIR
YOWCH!
WHAT IN THE--?
SAY KID, IS THIS METROPOLIS?
Y-YEAH.
GOOD! MY BACK WOULDN'TA TAKEN MUCH MORE
DO YOU ALWAYS TRAVEL AS BAGGAGE?
IT WAS ALL WE COULD AFFORD
"WE"?
EASTAIR
MY PARTNER AN' ME HAVE YOU SEEN--?
HEY! STOP THAT GUY, HE'S STEALIN' THAT SUITCASE
PLAS' WAKE UP!!
?!?
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT, YOU POOR SHMOE
WHO'S A SHMOE? WHO SAID THAT?

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ALL RIGHT HOLD IT! WHAT'S GOING ON.. HERE?
T-TAKE ME AWAY P-PLEASE!
THIS GOON DIDN'T HAVE A PROPER CLAIM CHECK--
--AND HIS HANDS ARE LIKE ICE!
EASY DOES IT, OLSEN DON'T FREAK OUT
JUST DO YOUR JOB!
WOOZY WHAT--?
SAY HELLO TO A GUY WHO GAVE ME A HAND PLAS SMATTER KID, NEVER SEEN A MAN STRETCH BEFORE?
AS A MATTER OF FACT--
OH I'M WOOZY WINKS AN' THIS'S MY PARTNER, PLASTIC MAN DON'T CATCH YOUR NAME
OLSEN--J. JIMMY OLSEN I'M WITH THE DAILY PLANET.
THE PLANET EH?
UH-OH SOUNDS LIKE THE REST OF THE MEDIA'S HEADED THIS WAY
THERE HE IS!
WHERE?
THE LONG RED ONE
YOU WANT TO AVOID THEM? COME WITH ME!
"--LET'S MOVE!"
LISSEN WE'RE ON A BIG CASE WE DON'T WANNA ATTRACT TOO MUCH ATTENTION
NO PROBLEM I'LL KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT IF YOU'LL PROMISE ME THE EXCLUSIVE STORY ONCE YOU'VE SOLVED THINGS
NO MASKING TOW AWAY ZONE
SOUNDS FAIR
WHAT WAS IT THAT BROUGHT YOU TO METROPOLIS?
I THINK IT WAS A 747(
ACTUALLY WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR, OLSEN

IT ALL STARTED YESTERDAY EVENING WITH A KNOCK AT MY OFFICE DOOR...
PLAS-TIC MAN HELP ME
PHILO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU LOOK AWFUL!
PHILO THAXX WAS A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR I'D CROSSED PATHS WITH ONCE OR TWICE BUT NOW HE LOOKED LIKE HE CROSSED SOMEONE ELSE THE WRONG WAY!
OVERHEARD SOME INFO FROM THE BIG BOYS BUT THEY OVERHEARD ME OVERHEARIN' THEM
YEESH! YOU OUGHTA LEARN TO LISTEN QUIETER!
SOMETHIN BIG S'POSED TO GO DOWN AND YOU GOTTA STOP EM FOR ME
UH I DON'T KNOW PHAXX THIS IS OUR BUSY SEASON IN ALL
YA GOTTA I'VE HAD SOME PLUSH CASES LATELY I CAN PAY PLENTY
WELL HEY WE'RE NEVER TOO BUSY TO HELP AN OLD FRIEND, ARE WE, PLAS?
T-B-T-B IS ARRIVIN' IN METROPOLIS
TOMORROW
PHILO!
WOOZY DON'T JUST STAND THERE DO SOMETHING
OKAY
100-
200-
300-!

THAT'S UNREAL!
CALL ME JIMMY AND THAT WAS ALL PHILO SAID BEFORE HE DIED?
THAT'S MY LIFE, OLGEN I'M USED TO IT ALMOST
DIED? WHO SAID HE DIED?
THE DOCTORS SAID HE'LL BE UP AND AROUND IN A MONTH.
ANYWAY, THAT WAS ALL PHILO KNEW OUR JOB IS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT MEANS.
PO1-8811 SOUNDS LIKE A PHONE NUMBER BUT THERE'S NO EXCHANGE LIKE THAT IN METROPOLIS
YEAH, HIGH-PRICED DOCTORS. THEY TOOK ALL THAT CASH, THAT'S WHY WE WERE FLYIN' BAGGAGE CLASS
AND WHO-- OR WHAT -- IS "IT B"?!?
AT THAT MOMENT NORTHWEST OF THE CITY...
COME ON STEP IT UP!
RELAX, EVERYTHING'S ON SCHEDULE...
...WE'LL HAVE THE WHOLE SHIPMENT ON BOARD IN A COUPLE OF LOADS. IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAVE MORE'N ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO HANDLE ANYBODY WHO MIGHT COME ALONG!
MANNHEIM'S PLAN IS [illegible], I TELL YA, INTERGANG IS GONNA REVOLUTIONIZE HIJACKING!
YOU'RE RIGHT ON THAT SCORE
OKAY, TAKE 'ER UP!
STILL, I'LL BREATHE A LOT EASIER ONCE
HEY! WHAT THE--?!
LEXCORP

SNAP!
LOOK OUT
IT'S ALL RIGHT BOYS--
--I HAVE IT
SUPERMAN!
HE MUSTA WEAKENED THAT CABLE WITH HIS HEAT VISION!
DROP HIM!!
NICE TRY
UH-OH
BUT I DON'T "DROP" EASILY
I'LL HAVE TO DO A LOT BETTER THAN THAT
CRACK

RUNNING?
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK YOU'D GET AWAY ON FOOT DID YOU?
WHU-
LEGGO! LEMME GO!
BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR - YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE IT
WHUMPF!
THERE THAT ABOUT WRAPS THINGS UP DOWN HERE
AND NOW
ASSAULT-5 TO BASE MAYDAY!
REPEAT-- MAYDAY! WE WERE SURPRISED IN MID-OPERATION BY SUPERMAN
ROGER, ASSAULT-5-- WHAT'S YOUR SITUATION?
ALL BAD! EXCEPT FOR MY CO-P NOT WE'VE LOST THE WHOLE TEAM
ACTUALLY THINGS ARE MUCH WORSE THAN THAT
OH NO
EJECT!!

I CAN CATCH THEM AT MY LEISURE FIRST, THOUGH, I'D BETTER GET THIS SHIP UNDER CONTROL. DON'T WANT IT CRASHING INTO ANYTHING
THAT LOOKS LIKE AN AUTOPILOT SETTING!
THEY WON'T GET FAR THAT WAY
AND WHAT'S THIS... A COMPUTER SCREEN UP AND RUNNING?
YES - AND IT APPEARS THAT THE SECURITY CODES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ENTERED.
I BELIEVE THAT I'VE TAPPED INTO INTERGANG'S PRIVATE COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD. LET'S SEE WHAT SORT OF INFORMATION IS LISTED
INTERESTING...
MUST INTERFERE
KLA
BOOM!

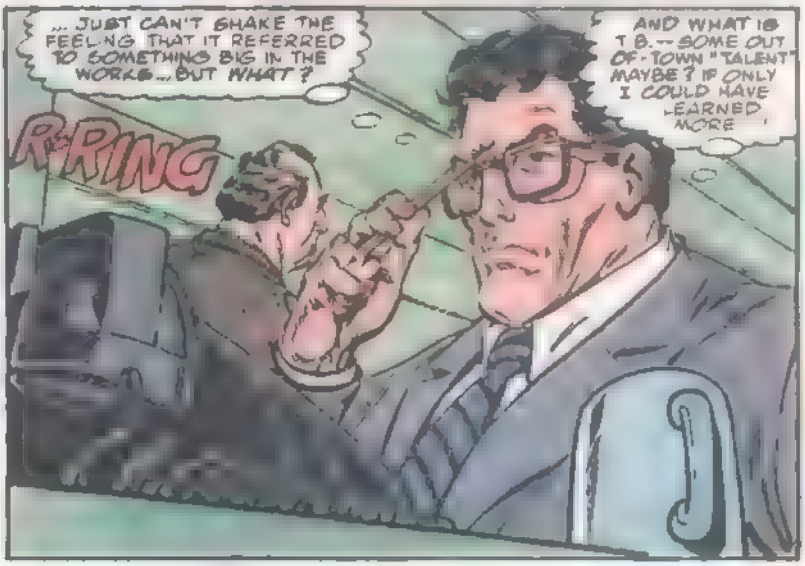
--AND COMPLETED! ASSAULT-5 TRANSPORT IS GONE, MR MANNHEIM
GOOD WORK TROOPER
I DO NOT LIKE THIS, MANNY HE M IF SUPERMAN HAD GAINED ACCESS TO OUR BULLET'N BOARD--! I HAD IMPORTANT MEMORANDA POSTED THERE!
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT LEE-LAN. HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN L NE LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE LEARNED ANYTHING
BESIDES WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT H M-LAN THAT DESTRUCT SE QUENCE HAS THE KIL F A BABY NUKE!
ARE YOU CERTAIN OF THAT MANNY-HEIM
ABS TELY
PHEW!! THAT SHIP WENT UP LIKE A BABY NUKE! MUST HAVE BEEN A NON-NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, THOUGH-- I DIDN'T FEEL ANY HARD RADIATION
I MUST HAVE TRIPPED SOME SORT OF FAIL-SAFE DEVICE TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE MORE TIME TO SCOPE OUT THEIR SYSTEMS
I WONDER WHO OR WHAT THAT T B IS?
TASTES LIKE TREE BLOOD

TIDY BOWL MAN TERRY BRADSHAW?
SOMEHOW I DOUBT IT, WOOZY
JUST WHERE IS IT THAT YOU'RE TAKING US, JIMMY?
WELL, I THOUGHT. OH MAN! I MUST'VE TAKEN THE WRONG EXPRESSWAY EXIT! THIS ISN'T DOWNTOWN -THIS IS SUICIDE SLUM!
I, UM GUESS I GOT DISTRACTED
..YEAH, BY YOU STRETCHING ALL OVER MY BACK BEAT! I KEEP THINKING OF THE MUTATED VIRUS THAT ONCE MADE MY BODY ELASTIC*.. WHAT A NIGHTMARE THAT WAS!
IT MUST NOT HURT HIM THE WAY IT DID ME. STILL, IT'S SO WEIRD... HOW CAN HE BE SO NONCHALANT?
* BACK IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #458
GEEZ NICE NEIGHBORHOOD AN HERE I THOUGHT METROPOLIS WAS S'POSED TO BE SO CLEAN AN SHINY!
IF WE'RE LOST WE SHOULD STOP AND ASK DIRECTIONS. MAYBE THOSE FELLAS COULD HELP US!
H-WHAT FELLAS?
OVER THERE!
HOLY MOSES!!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
SCREECH!
HOWZAT?
YEAH I LIKE IT!
BIBBO'S
ACE O' CLUBS
BIBBO--?
FRIEND OF YOURS?
WELL SORT OF

WHAT'S HAPPENIN', BIBBO?
'EY, RED — LONG TIME, NO SEE! I JUS' BOUGHT THE PLACE FROM OL' BALDY MANESIS
YOU BOUGHT THE ACE O' CLUBS? WHERE D' YOU GET THE MONEY--?
AIN'TCHA HEARD? I HIT IT BIG IN TH' LOTT'RY - WON ME 14-MILLION BUCKS! NOT BAD, HUH?
WILL THIS TAKE LONG, JIMMY?
NAW, I LIKE MEETIN' NEW JOES.
WHO'S THE PENCIL-NECK ...AN' THE TUB O' LARD?
NOTHING MUCH FAZES YOU, DOES IT, BIBBO?

HOLEE @#*%!! IT'S.. T S SOME KINDA FREAK!!
CALL ME PLASTIC MAN. AND THIS IS MY PARTNER, WOOZY WINKS
BIBBO... PLEASED TO MEETCHA
YOU KNOW, BIBBO KNOWS A LOT ABOUT WHAT GOES ON IN THIS PART OF TOWN WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM ABOUT T B --

"-- WH LE I CHECK OUT MY OTHER SOURCES"
I CAN'T GET THAT INTERGANG MESSAGE OUT OF MY MIND..


...JUST CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT IT REFERRED TO SOMETHING BIG IN THE WORKS...BUT WHAT?
R-RING
AND WHAT IS T B.--SOME OUT-OF-TOWN "TALENT" MAYBE? IF ONLY I COULD HAVE LEARNED MORE!

DAILY PLANET
OH HELLO JIM NO NEWS BUT I WAS JUST SITTING AT HER DESK
YOU'RE WHERE?
AT THE ACE O' CLUBS ON NORTH SIMON, MR. KENT CLARK... SORRY, I'M STILL NOT USED TO CALLING YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME
ANYWAY, I'M HERE WITH THAT NEW YORK SUPER-GUY, PLASTIC MAN -- HE AND HIS PARTNER ARE IN TOWN ON THE TRAIL OF SOME MYSTERY
HAW, HAW, HAW! I LIKE YOU -- YER A FUNNY GUY!
THANKS, BIB - EV YER MY FAV RIT TOO!
LISTEN HAVE YOU HEARD ANY-THING ABOUT SOME UNDERWORLD SHIPMENT OR SOMETHING CALLED T B ?
T.B ?!? WHAT DO YOU KNOW--? UH NO, NOT ME BUT SUPERMAN--!
LOOK, JUST HAVE EVERYONE SIT TIGHT! I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!
SO THERE S A NEW YORK CONNE T ON AND PLASTIC MAN S GOTTEN NVOLVED!
THANK GOD I WAS THERE TO TAKE JIMMY'S CALL. I MET PLASTIC MAN ONCE -- VERY ADAPTABLE SORT, BUT HE DIDN'T SEEM ALL THAT STABLE.
AND F TH S OPERATION IS AS BIG AS I SUSPECT--

--I DON'T WANT HIM TACKLING IT ALONE...
..AT LEAST, NOT IN MY TOWN!
MOMENTS LATER
BUT MR KENT WANTED THEM TO WAIT HERE! HOW COULD YOU JUST LET THEM WALK OUT?!
IT'S A FREE COUNTRY
JIMMY?
SUPERMAN! BOY AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU WE'VE GOT THIS MYSTERY--
I KNOW KENT TOLD ME
EY SOOPERMAN-- GOOD TA SEE YA! YER ALWAYS WELCOME N MY BAR!
YOUR BAR--?
NEVER MIND WHERE'S PLASTIC MAN?
GOOD QUESTION!
I WUZ ABOUT TO TELL RED HERE. THE RUBBER GUY SAID HE HAD THIS NUMBER--
--AN' WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT IT SOUNDED TO ME LIKE A [illegible] HARBOR REGISTRATION..

"...HIM AN' HIS LITTLE BUDDY LIT OUTTA HERE!"
KEEP SEARCHING, WOOZY! THIS IS PIER-01... LOOK FOR ANYTHING WITH AN 8811 ON IT!
I DUNNO ABOUT THIS, PLAS.
--BIBBO'S A REAL NICE GUY AN ALL -- BUT HE'S ALSO MORE N HALFWAY TO PUNCH-DRUNK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT, HUN?
P-PLAS, C'MERE! QUICK!
WHAT IS IT, WOOZY?
601-8811
THERE! 601-8811! I FOUND IT!
UH, NOT EXACTLY!
WHAT YOU FOUND WAS A REFLECTION OF 601-8811
601-88
NUTS! I KNEW THIS WAS A WASTE OF TIME! WE'LL NEVER FIND T.D OUT HERE!
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG DEAD WRONG
EH?
OHHH.. THIS IS GONNA HURT A LOT, ISN'T IT?

PD1-8811... THAT'S NOT A LOT TO GO ON! THE METROPOLIS PORT AUTHORITY HAS AT LEAST FIVE DIFFERENT GRADES OF REGISTRATION
AND A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE ENTIRE WATERFRONT COULD TAKE FOREVER--EVEN FOR A SUPERMAN
THE BEST I CAN DO IS FLY OVER THE HARBOR AND LOOK FOR ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL--!
BTO OM!
HE-E-ELP!
POLICE--FIRE--EMERGENCY! ANYBODY! HELP ME!!
IT WOOZY WINKS, RIGHT?
WHERE'S PLASTIC MAN? WHAT'S GOING ON?
BUH-BUH-BIG ...BIG GUY! H-HE ...BLEW UP...

. REAL GOOD, DON'T I?
BLAM
EEESH!
AND I CAN DO IT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN! IN FACT, I CAN BLOW UP--
--AND THEN RE-FORM ANY PART OF ME! SEE?!
I SEE. I SEE!
AND YOU'RE T B ?
THOSE'RE MY INITIALS, YEAH! I CALL MYSELF TIME-BOMB!
HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME? I SPENT MONTHS FIGURING OUT MY POWER AND WORKING ON MY TIMING
BEFORE I KNEW I WAS FINALLY READY TO HIT THE CITY AND MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF-- BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO RUN INTO A RUBBERY FREAK LIKE YOU!
I THOUGHT THAT ANY TROUBLE I'D FACE IN METROPOLIS WOULD COME FROM
TAP TAP
...SUPERMAN

CONGRATULATIONS!
WH
4D
YOU WERE RIGHT ON THE LAST COUNT!
MY GOD... LOOK AT HIM!
PLASTIC MAN... CAN YOU SPEAK?
UNNGH? GUESS SO... WHO'RE YOU?
SUPERMAN, REMEMBER? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I SUPPOSE... I MEAN, EVERYTHING LOOKS NORMAL TO ME
YOU THINK ONE SUCKER PUNCH IS ALL YOU NEED TO STOP ME?
WRONG! REAL WRONG!!
KA-TOOM
AERR! HERE WE GO AGAIN!

I KNEW
HUH? YOU LOAN?
NOPE, ME STILL I MAY TAKE A FEW HITS
BUT I ALWAYS BOUNCE BACK!
OKAY FREAK-- LET'S SEE YOU BOUNCE BACK FROM THIS!
YEEURK!
?
FOOB
IF I DON'T GET A HAJUS HERNIA FROM ALL THIS--!
GAAAGH! MY HAND!!
TIME BOMB, YOU HAVE A LOT MORE TO WORRY ABOUT THAN A SORE HAND!
I'VE BEEN BLOWN UP TWICE TODAY AND I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF IT!

YOU FANCY BOYS JUST KEEP COMING BACK FOR MORE, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT POWER I HAVEN'T EVEN USED YET
BU-ROOM
LIKE I TOLD THE FREAK - I'VE BEEN WORKING OUT FOR MONTHS. I'M READY FOR ANYTHING!
NOW THAT I'VE FOUND YOU I'LL KEEP EXPLODING UNTIL YOU CAN'T GET UP AGAIN!
YOU THINK SO?
HEY I COULD BLOW THIS WHOLE WATERFRONT TO KINGDOM COME!
GO AHEAD AND TRY BLOWHARD!
WHAT THE--?!
THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS GOON IS TO BUTTLE HIM UP! GIVE ME A HAND SUPERMAN-- HURRY!
IT'S... WORKING!
BU-DOOB
OY! I BETTER BE

LOOK... A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT!
"GUESS"?! YOU GUESSED THAT WE COULD CONTAIN HIM?
YOU OKAY?
I THINK SO. DID I GUESS RIGHT ABOUT TIME-BOMB?
I GUESS A LOT YOU HAVE TO BE FLEXIBLE IN THIS BIZ.
HMPH. HE DOESN'T LOOK MUCH WORSE THAN BEFORE
WELL? DON'T JUST SQUAT THERE... SAY SOMETHING!
SUPERMAN -- PLASTIC MAN!
HOLY SMOKES, WHAT HAPPENED HERE? IS THAT "T.B."?
UUUGHN
THAT'S HIM, KID! THERE'S YOUR STORY...
DAILY PLANET
PLASTIC MAN, SUPERMAN CAPTURE HUMAN TIME-BOMB!
HEY, WHO WRITES THE HEADLINES FOR THIS RAG?
IT'S A CONSPIRACY--
--THEY NEVER MENTION ME!
YOU'RE IN THE STORY, MR WINKS. UNLESS MY EDITOR CUT IT.
THANKS, THAT WAS MY BIGGEST EXCLUSIVE EVER!
OUR PLEASURE JIMMY!
JUST ONE THING STILL BOTHERS ME...

... WHAT DID THOSE NUMBERS -- P01-8811 -- HAVE TO DO WITH TIME-BOMB? HE CLAIMED TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT INTERGANG --!
PACIFIC ORIEN
GATE 1
FLIGHT 8811
AW, THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY!
BUT... IF HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH... MAYBE THERE'S SOME OTHER T.B. OUT THERE...
SHE LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE ME, ONLY TALLER.
LEILANI?

NO-NO... I WAS HERE... JUST TRYING TO FRESHEN UP... BUT THE AIRPORT WASHROOMS ARE SOOO SMALL!
TINY BUBBLES?! TINY BUBBLES?!?
WELL, YOU WILL SOON ENJOY MUCH ROOMIER QUARTERS, BABY SISTER!
OOOO, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE SUCH GOOD TIMES!
PACIFIC ORIEN
GATE 1
FLIGHT 8811
THE END
THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!

NEXT ISSUE: THE RETURN OF SILVER BANSHEE! THE MYSTERY OF LEX LUTHOR'S WILL! AND AN HISTORIC REVELATION! DON'T MISS...

"SECRETS in the NIGHT!"

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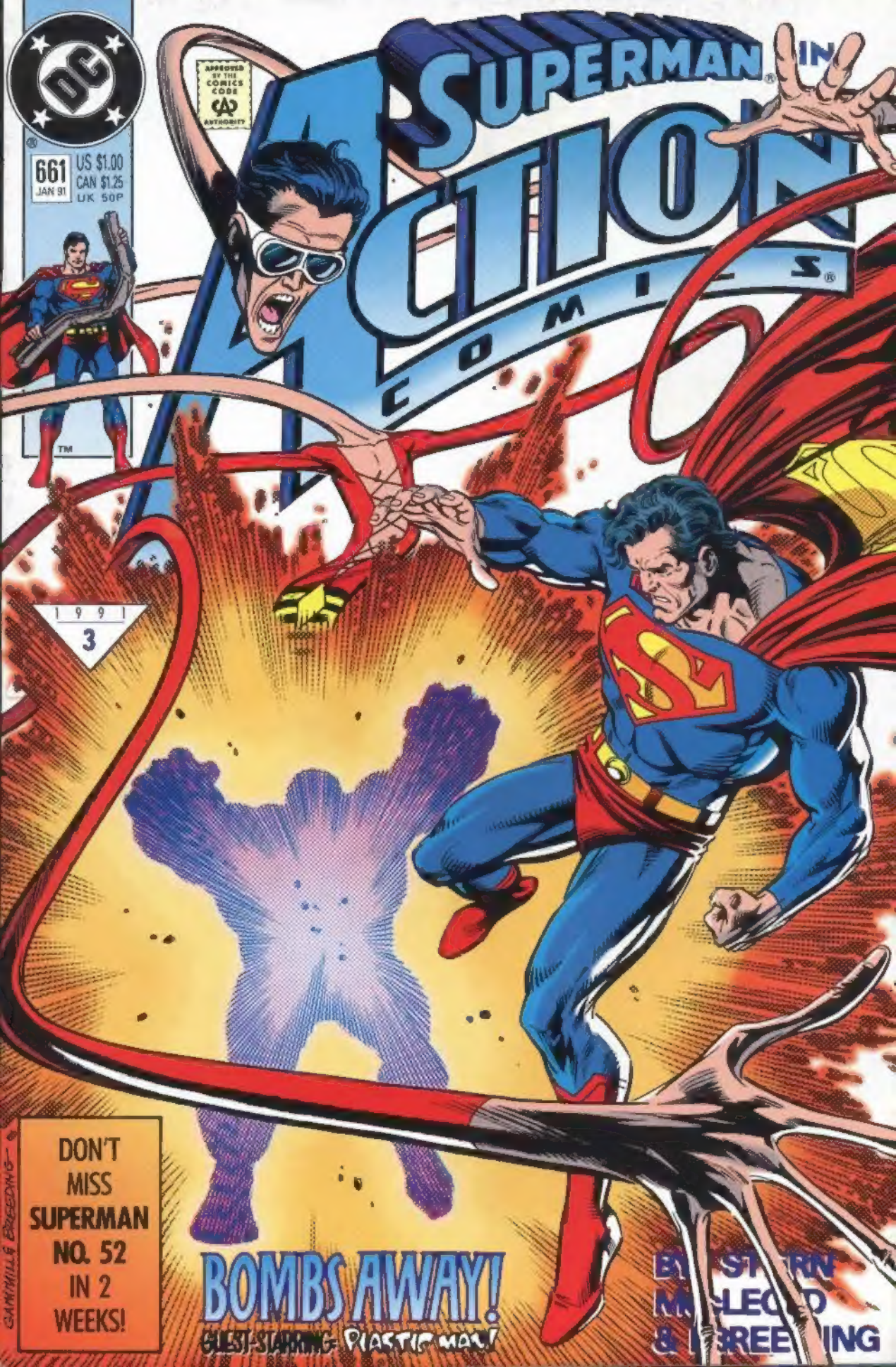
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GUEST-STARRING PLASTIC MAN!